

*tight*wire

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

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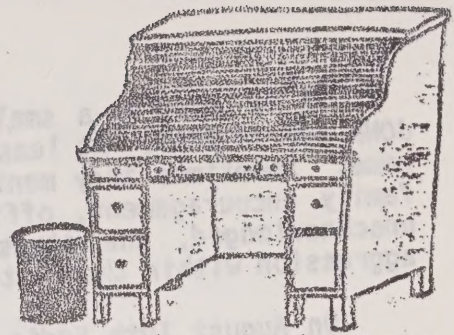
LIBRARY



EBB

EB

Editorial



The outside world is changing in respect to women (at last!). We receive literally hundreds of newsletters from feminist groups. Women in the old traditional role have always made "home" everyone's favourite place to be. If we apply the same principles from this microcosm to the world perhaps markind can get its priorities straight.

Before putting out the last issue we wondered how any editor could allow a paper to go out with a spot on the page or with the print not even. Two weeks of coaxing a machine that hated us changed all that. The first week I watched, amused, as Gail stood like an outfielder trying to catch the stream of pages that were rapidly spit from the machine. Sometimes in groups, and often dripping with ink she tried to reach for an adjustment button. Then she would step aside and somehow the ink that was all over her hands and arms would have gotten on her shoe and would be attracting every paper on the floor. I did a lot less laughing when Gail took a leave of absence, so to speak. Each time I figured out why something was going wrong, a new hornet's nest was discovered. Usually at this time, someone would pop their head through the door and joke "How's it going?" It took 24 hours to get someone to fix the machine after I tried to change the ink. And too much design on a page will stick to the stencil. So there I was, poised on my toes, snatching pages while waiting for a chance to switch it to manual. By the last page I realized it was not the machine at all. Then came the easy part - getting it in the mail. What I was thinking, of the person that dreamt up the postal code system was probably cause for conspiracy charges. For days I tried to attach little pieces of paper with the mysterious code to the aging Tightwire.

I remember when I was in the real world (the third dimension) I could read the paper and be elated that finally a caring society was taking to task consideration of needy causes. But now it appears that the sole purpose of the stacks of reports and recommendations by Parliamentary Committees is to collect dust.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed materials. All articles appearing in this issue have been subject to a review by an Administrative editorial board. Views and Opinions are those of the authors and are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of administration or the entire inmate population.

Prison Justice Day

It is usually a small article drowned in the ocean of media newsprint. JOHN DOE IS DEAD. At least there is a name; died as a number but remembered by name. Sometimes they mention a reason: visiting procedures didn't allow for family encouragement, official requests from the inmate or staff member went unacknowledged, the stress of a long awaited trial, general depression or aggression within the system.

On August 10th Eddie Nalon slashed himself and bled to death in solitary confinement at Millhaven Penitentiary. Prisoners in adjoining cells were unable to arouse a guard because the panic button system had been dismantled by the guards. No one had told Eddie during the ten days prior to his death that his release from isolation had been ordered on July 31st.

Prisoners and outside supporters across Canada commemorate the needless deaths of incarcerated individuals on August 10th by fasting and having no communication with prison staff. The only way that a positive statement can be made is through quiet protest. It sure beats riots. In B.C. outside supporters light candles and stand vigil outside the gates of the prisons and the protest is mentioned in the media. At P4W there was no such support. A minority of women made their way to the dining room. With 20% of our population in segregation, even a minority is appalling. Perhaps, they don't realize how much blood was shed to get changes. Or is anyone so blind that they can't look around and see the scars. (There was a time when only the dead could smile.) One woman pointed out that it is an individual decision. Well, so is suicide but I can't sit back and watch it. And solidarity for 24 hours a year doesn't seem such a high price to pay for recognition of the inevitable shortcomings of such a large bureaucracy.

Another feeble argument was made: why protest against the system when many of the deaths are caused by other inmates? But if the large populations were cut down and better programs initiated then the tension that leads to these deaths would subside.

November 11 is set aside to remember the men who kept our country safe. August 10 is the date to remember those who died and made our prisons safer.

It would be nice if all those who have been through the system would show support at least once a year. The media should cover PJD especially in towns like this where it is one of the main industries.

For those that are in the system but maybe have not been made to suffer in any drastic way, in solidarity you can help the rest of us commemorate the lives surrendered to the system.

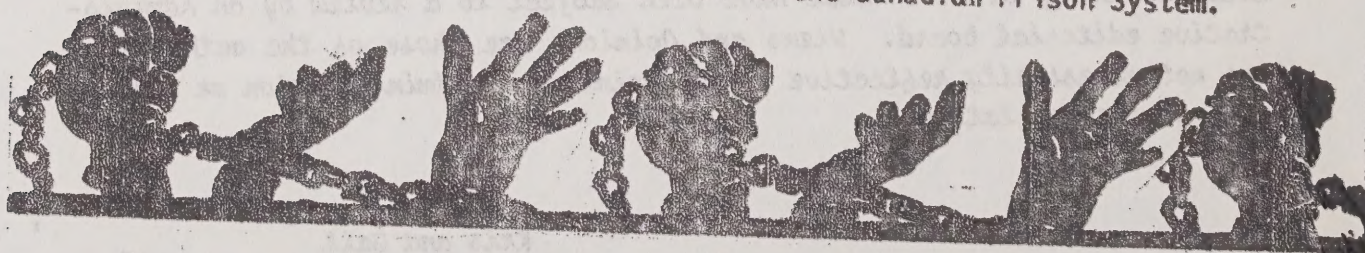
IN MEMORIAM
P4W

ARLENE COTE

AGNES THOMPSON

ISABELLE LYNN WABASSO

..... and all of our
other brothers and sisters who died in the Canadian Prison System.



THE WHEELS OF INJUSTICE
by Art Solomon

They say that,
the wheels of (justice)
They grind slowly,
yes we know,
they grind
and they grind
and they grind
and they grind,
It seems like they grind
forever.

And what they grind
is human beings,
and how they grind.

They grind away
The humanity
of the victims
who get caught
in its jaws.

Oh/God protect us
from a law abiding society,
Have pity on us
who are its victims,
Protect us Oh/god
from those who say
"We are Christian,"
Because we know
That if Christ
Walked visibly among them today
They'd throw him in jail tomorrow
Oh/God protect us from
law abiding Christians.
The wheels of injustice
They grind forever,
But they have
Nothing at all
to do with justice.
Because,
The
Name
of
The
Game,
is
Vengeance.

Oh/God protect us
from
The
Game
Called
Justice,
Where the rich get richer
And the poor,
They go to jail.

Yes, the wheels of injustice
They grind so slowly
And human sacrifice is their meat.
They grind the hopes and dreams
of some
While the parasites live in their
homes of plush.
Oh/God



HOW TO DIET ON THE FOODS YOU LIKE:

EAT BY COLOUR

Rather than drive yourself crazy figuring out calories or nutrient values of the foods you eat every day, it's much simpler to use this eat-by-colour system. The mix of colours on your plate or spread throughout your day is an easy check that you're getting the variety of nutrients your body needs. If you aim for the nutrient/colour-balanced menu plan below you'll get a nice taste/texture balance throughout the day -- but you can move foods around any-way you want. Just make sure you get the following daily:

8 greens
4 reds
1 fat

4 browns
2 whites

GREEN: The colour for vitamins A, C and fiber found in fruits and vegetables, including the red, yellow, purple and orange ones. Eat 8 servings every day.

* 1 fruit serving - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup berries, grapes virtually any fresh or frozen fruit or juice; 1 small apple, pear, peach, banana, orange; 2 small plums, apricots; $\frac{1}{2}$ cantaloupe; $\frac{1}{8}$ honeydew; 1 cup diced watermelon; 2T dried fruits (raisins, prunes, dates, apricots).

* 1 vegetable serving - $\frac{1}{2}$ c. any fresh or frozen vegetables; 1 medium stalk broccoli celery, or medium carrot; 1 small tomato, pepper, onion, artichoke; 4 medium spears asparagus or vegetable sticks; unlimited lettuce, cabbage or any salad green.

BROWN: The colour pointer to B vitamins, iron and fiber in whole-grain and enriched breads and cereals. Eat 4 servings every day.

* 1 serving - 1 oz. slice of any type of bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ each of a bagel, English muffin, 6" pita, hamburger or hot dog bun; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cold cereal; 1 2" bran or corn muffin; 4 crackers: soda stoned/wheat, melba, graham, rye, etc.; 2 small breadsticks; 3 cups hot air popped popcorn without butter; 1 small potato.

RED: The colour for protein, iron and some B vitamins found in red meats, poultry (including eggs) and fish. Eat 4 servings daily.

* 1 serving - 1 oz. chicken, Cornish hen, turkey, fish, shellfish, canned salmon or tuna (water-packed) the lean cuts of beef (tenderloin, round, or rump cuts), lamb (loin, chops), pork (chops or loin), veal (cutlets or chops) 1 egg (no more than 3 eggs per week).

WHITE: The calcium marker found in all dairy foods. Eat 2 servings every day. Milk proteins can be counted as a "white" or a "red".

- * 1 serving - 1 c. skim milk or 1% milk or low-fat buttermilk, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. whole milk or plain, low-fat yogurt or low-fat cottage cheese; $\frac{1}{2}$ c. part skim milk, ricotta or any flavour ice milk; 2 oz. farmer cheese; 1 oz. hard cheese; part-skim mozzarella, cheddar, Swiss, feta, chevre; 3 T grated Parmesan cheese.

FAT: The transporter for fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K in the body, but a little goes a long way. That's why you should think of fats as "no colours" -- you want to make them the nearly invisible part of your diet. Eat 1 serving every day.

- * 1 serving - $\frac{1}{8}$ small avocado; 5 medium olives; 5 almonds or 5 walnut halves; 1 t. pistachio nuts, pine nuts; 1 t butter, margarine, oil, mayonnaise; 2 T diet salad dressing or diet mayonnaise.

SAMPLE MENU

BREAKFAST: 1 green, 1 brown, 1 white

SNACK: 1 green, $\frac{1}{2}$ white

LUNCH: 2 green, 1 brown, 1 red

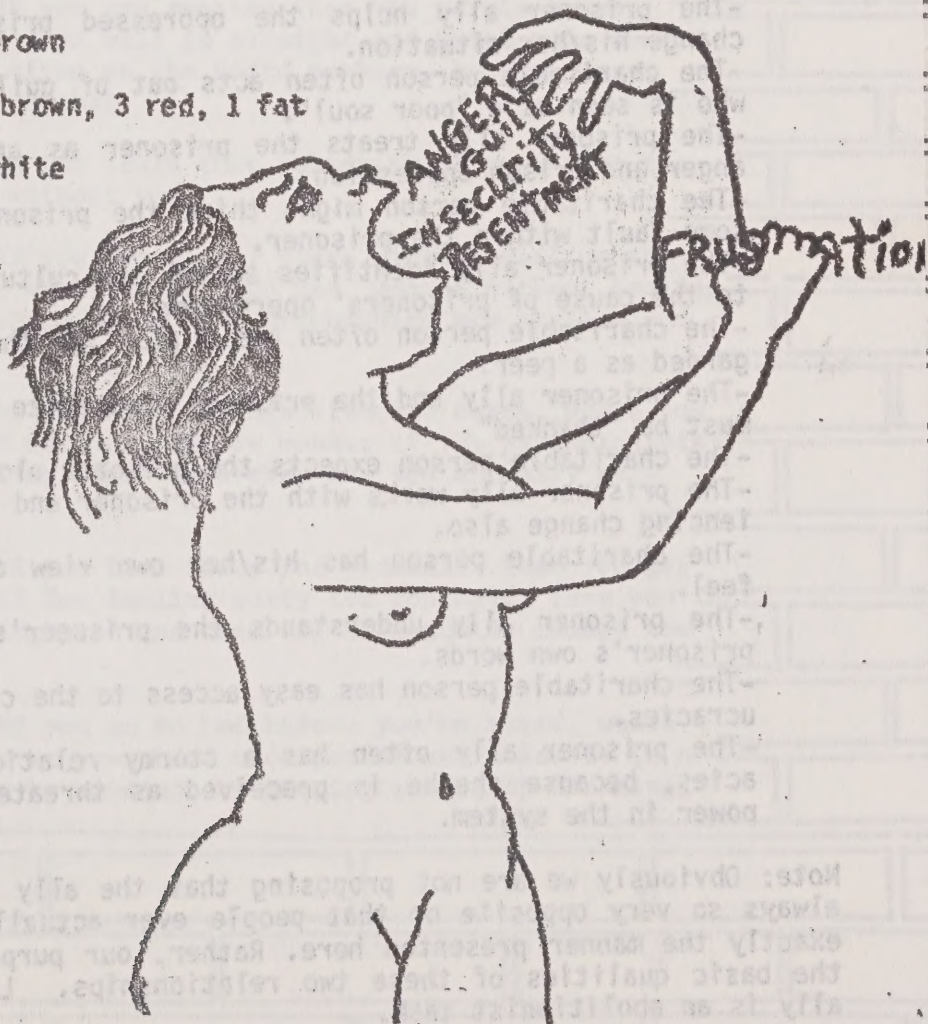
SNACK: 1 green, 1 brown

DINNER: 2 green, 1 brown, 3 red, 1 fat

SNACK: 1 green, $\frac{1}{2}$ white

(Excerpt from SELF magazine
- June, 1985)

If you are worried
about your weight
it's a matter of living
beyond your seams



Qualities of a Prisoner Ally

an abolition paper, taken from Instead of Prisons

There are many ways of "helping" prisoners. One is to impose what you think is "best" for them. This is the typical approach of well-being "experts" and "professionals" who are members of the criminal (in) justice bureaucracies.

Another way of "helping" prisoners is through charity. We use charity in prison to provide relief of suffering and to express compassion. But there are problems with charity: Charity creates dependency. It communicates pity rather than shared outrage and can romanticize the prisoner. Charity sometimes relieves the sufferings of prisoners, but it does not alter the basic conditions responsible for the sufferings.

A third way of helping prisoners is to become their ally. These are some of the qualities of a prisoner ally as compared to those of the "charitable" person:

- The charitable person does not think of altering the prisoner's persistent need for help. The prisoner must always depend on the good will of the charities.
- The prisoner ally helps the oppressed prisoner become empowered to change his/her situation.
- The charitable person often acts out of guilt and pities the prisoner who is seen as a "poor soul".
- The prisoner ally treats the prisoner as an ally in change, sharing anger and prison oppression.
- The charitable person might think the prisoner's situation comes from some fault within the prisoner.
- The prisoner ally identifies social and cultural forces that contribute to the cause of prisoners' oppression.
- The charitable person often has a plan for the prisoner, who is not regarded as a peer.
- The prisoner ally and the prisoner strategize together, mutually; no one must be "thanked".
- The charitable person expects the prisoner alone to change.
- The prisoner ally works with the prisoner and takes mutual risks, experiencing change also.
- The charitable person has his/her own view of what the prisoner must feel.
- The prisoner ally understands the prisoner's experiences through the prisoner's own words.
- The charitable person has easy access to the criminal (in)justice bureaucracies.
- The prisoner ally often has a stormy relationship with the bureaucracies, because she/he is perceived as threatening to persons who hold power in the system.

Note: Obviously we are not proposing that the ally and charitable person are always so very opposite or that people ever actually fulfill either role in exactly the manner presented here. Rather, our purpose is simply to contrast the basic qualities of these two relationships. Learning how to become an ally is an abolitionist task.

PRISON IS...

(This is an abridged version of an anonymous article found in an old prison journal.)

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you write letters and can't think of anything to say, where you gradually write fewer and fewer letters and finally stop writing altogether.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE hope springs eternal: where each parole board appearance means a chance to get out, even if the odds are hopelessly against you.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE the flame in every man burns low. For some it goes out, but for most it flickers weakly, sometimes flashes brightly, but never seems to burn as bright as it once did.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you lose respect for the law because you see it raw and naked, twisted and bent, and ignored and blown out of proportion to suit the people who enforce it.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you are smarter than the parole board because you know which guys will go straight and which ones won't. You are wrong just as often as the board members, but you never admit it, and neither do they.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you learn that nobody needs you, that the outside world goes on without you.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you can go for years without feeling the touch of a human hand, where you can go for months without hearing a kind word. It is a place where your friendships are shallow and you know it.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you hate through clenched teeth, where you want to beat, kick and scratch and you wonder if the psychologists know what they're talking about when they say you actually hate yourself.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you feel sorry for yourself. Then you get disgusted with yourself for feeling sorry for yourself; then you get mad for feeling disgusted and then try to mentally change the subject.

PRISON IS A PLACE WHERE you go to bed before you're tired, where you pull the blanket over your head when you're not cold. It is a place where you escape by reading, by playing cards, by dreaming, or by going mad.

Drugs

Health statistics reveal that the two drugs most responsible for deaths in Canada are alcohol and tobacco. Neither of these two drugs have any beneficial effects but, despite their destructiveness, the use of them is legal. Meanwhile, the authorities are attempting to convince everyone that marijuana and hash are destructive to the user. There isn't any doubt that excess use of any drug will prove to be harmful to the user but there is probably more moderation practiced by users of marijuana and hash than there is by tobacco smokers and alcohol drinkers. It is undeniable that it is alcohol and tobacco that are killing people but it is the two "soft" drugs that are illegal and using them can result in a person being sent to prison. If I give you a cigarette, I am being polite; if I give you a joint, I can be convicted of "trafficking". In other words, if I give you something that can help kill you, I'm a nice guy but if I give you something that you will enjoy, I'm a criminal.

Why aren't tobacco and alcohol ruled illegal if they are the two major causes of death? For example, thousands of Canadians are injured or killed by intoxicated drivers each year and doctors have warned (and proven) there is a direct link between smoking tobacco and lung cancer. It's true that on every package of cigarettes, there is a warning in tiny letters, "Health and Welfare Canada advises that danger to health increases with amount smoked - avoid inhaling". It is also true that tobacco products can be purchased at any store by anyone. As for old number two on the death list, alcohol, well, the government does advertise, "if you drive - don't drink". Of course the government will also sell you all the booze you want at their nearest liquor store outlet. In both cases though, the government leaves it up to the individual to decide whether he/she will smoke or drink.

In the case of marijuana and hash, the government attempts to convince people that if they smoke these two products, it will lead them into becoming "crazed dope-addicts". Their theory is that if you start on marijuana, you'll graduate to "hard" drugs. We could carry their fairy tale a little further. Small children are induced to smoke tobacco. Did you ever see the candy cigarettes stores sell children? Or licorice cigars? Well, if children buy these candies, it will lead them to smoking cigarettes which will lead to smoking marijuana, etc. Ridiculous. There are some doctors now who have jumped on the bandwagon and state that smoking marijuana is bad for your health. If you smoke 50 or 60 joints a day, you probably will end up with lung trouble but you'll be so high, you won't give a damn anyway. You'll also be in prison.

There was a test made at a school. Students were given a test when they were "straight" and then given a test after they had smoked marijuana. They didn't do as well on the second test which led to the conclusion that "smoking marijuana effects your memory". They should give another test. Let the students write one test and then, after they have drunk a bottle of liquor, give them another test and, presto, they will make an amazing discovery, "drinking booze effects your memory". I wonder how they explain the fact that tobacco and alcohol are addictive and marijuana and hash aren't?

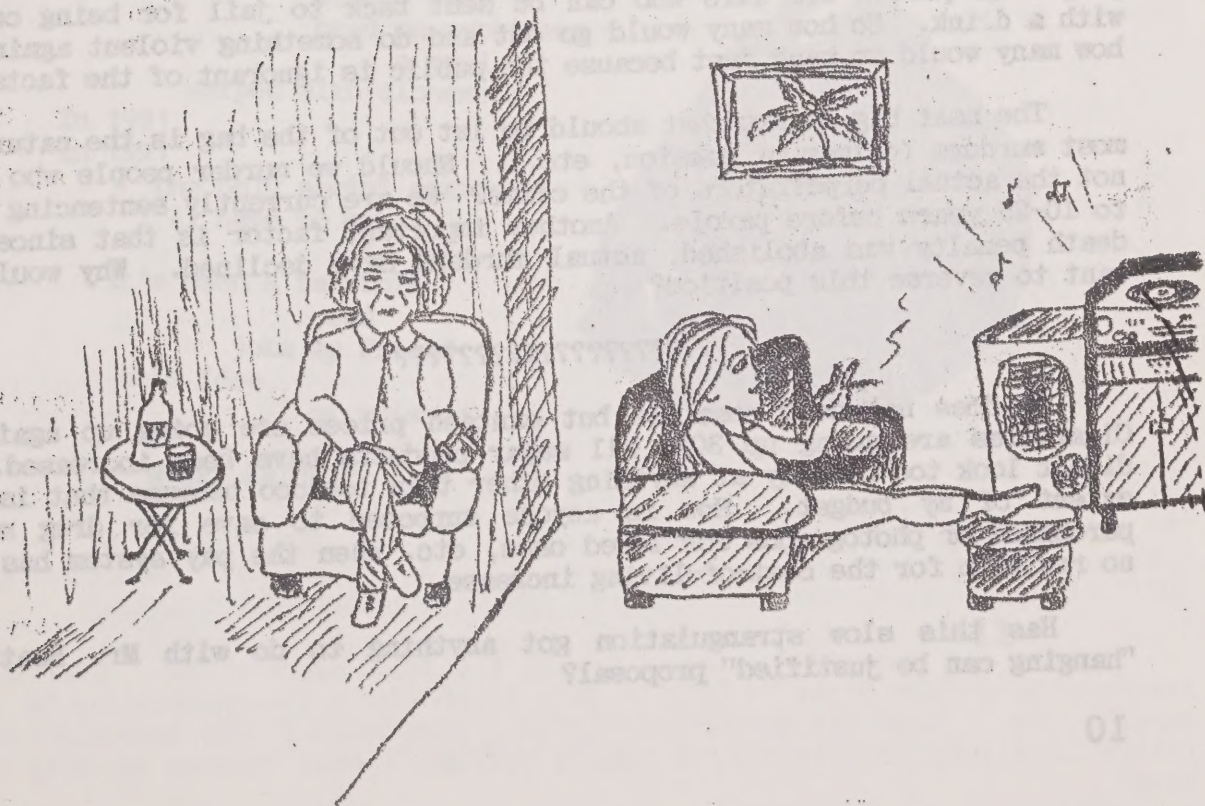
If the government is truly concerned with the health of Canadians, why don't they ban the sale of the two major killers? The reasons why are: (1) the tobacco and alcohol industry is powerful and, (2) they derive a great amount of revenue from the sale of these two products. In fact, the greatest portion of the purchase price of cigarettes and booze is the government tax - you don't kill the golden goose.

Why doesn't the government legalize the sale of marijuana and hash? Because the sale of these two "soft" drugs would effect the sales of tobacco and booze. If a person can smoke and also get a "high" by only using one product, why buy two? It is only my own theory but I would bet that the major reason why these two drugs aren't legal is because of the opposition of the tobacco and alcohol industry.

Valium is prescribed liberally by the medical profession in Canada and I read an article that said millions of valium are taken each year by Canadians. I defy any doctor in Canada or anywhere else to prove that marijuana is more harmful than valium. Pharmaceutical companies are making a fortune selling valium but these companies also provide revenue for the government.

There are people that are naive enough to believe that the government is concerned about their health; these people also hang up their stocking by the chimney on Christmas Eve and believe that the stork brings babies.

George Watson
Excerpt of Out of Bounds



Hanging can be justified
because "crime is war:" Beatty

Fergus, Ont./The Canadian Press

Capital punishment can be justified because in a sense "crime is war," Solicitor-General Perrin Beatty says.

The former revenue minister, who said when he was appointed solicitor-general last week that he'd changed his mind and had come to support hanging for major crimes involving police officers and prison guards, said yesterday that capital punishment can be viewed as a form of self-defence.

"It comes when it's a matter of defence of either the way of life, in the case of basic freedoms, or in the case of war or in the case of the defence of innocent lives."

"Crime itself has not increased significantly and has even decreased in some of the most serious areas like murder. But judges are imposing harsher penalties . . . The National Parole Board has significantly reduced its release rate. Most Canadians believe the opposite, that violent crime is increasing and that the courts and the Parole Board are becoming more lenient."

Solicitor-General of Canada

Addressing the Canadian Bar Association
Winnipeg, Sept., 1984

Last issue we told you about polls taken among Canadian citizens that showed they were unaware of true statistics. That being the case why is the government not taking steps to change the public attitude by releasing (in a big way) the real stats. If they are short on paper for this campaign, they could borrow some from Flora McDonald who seems to have an endless supply. The first statistic should be the percentage of murderers who repeat the crime. When they talk about recidivism, they are describing people on parole for life who can be sent back to jail for being caught with a drink. So how many would go out and do something violent again and how many would we hang just because the public is ignorant of the facts?

The next big secret that should be let out of the bag is the nature of most murders (crimes of passion, etc.). Should we murder people who were not the actual perpetrators of the crime? We are currently sentencing them to 10-25 years before parole. Another important factor is that since the death penalty was abolished, actual murders have declined. Why would we want to reverse this position?

????????????????????

It does not seem possible but canteen prices are going up again!!! Cigarettes are going up 30%, all sugar products have been increased. I didn't look too closely at anything other than tobacco because that is the extent of my budget. How is anyone supposed to save for drug store purchases or photographs for loved ones, etc. when the pay system has had no revision for the cost-of-living increase.

Has this slow strangulation got anything to do with Mr. Beatty's "hanging can be justified" proposal?

And in 1991

I'll walk ...
turn my back on the
years of lies
that withered my heart
the bitterness
that honed the sharp cutting edge
of my survival

And in 1991

I'll leave...
the curse of prison stigma
riding my back
like the foul fetid stench
of my prison toilet
that permeated every waking hour
of my miserable existence

And in 1991

I'll be...
free
free to remember all of the years
locked away
locked in
locked down
free...

to remember
my
bondage
the irony of it all
spills into the hysterical
laughter
that spews forth
from a gut
bred on emptiness
a soul
warped with aloneness

In 1991

In 1991

the only social statement
I'll have to make
is that
it's been a terrible
sad
joke my friend
this idea
of prisons

- Mykki Balduff

At no time has the question been answered as to why people commit violent acts. No degree of expertise is implemented to understand the violent offender. The only two solutions the public have are:

- (1) lock the offender away and hope for the best once they are finally released; or
- (2) hang them

The first solution is a burden to the taxpayer, for every year an individual is incarcerated, you, the public, are assessed in excess, a bill of between forty and fifty thousand dollars. What do you, the public, receive for this? Safety for sure, but for how long? Take a look at the product the people receive. A man or woman bitter, and angry, and in no way able to cope with everyday normal life.

The second option guarantees the offender will never commit another violent act. This stems from the Hitler era, and his "final solution". Capital punishment is as simple as that.

No parent ever thinks their child will ever participate in an act of murder, or commit an attack on a woman, or with guns blazing, hold up a financial institution. But the fact remains, every person who does engage in a violent act has a mother and father.

What ticks off the violence in humanity? Who knows. How many families have children and one turns out bad, in later years. What do you, the parent, do when you find out your child has committed an offence? Nine times out of ten you shun your child, simply because you have already passed judgment, and found your child guilty; the police say so, and they never lie!

Ignored by its family, what does the child do? Anything to survive. Shunned by the public, it seeks compatible associates, and by this time the trouble is much more serious.

Prison, this time, were hatred blossoms and bitterness flows like water. To survive, the individual has to be tough; tossing aside moral values as taught and develop new values designed to help them survive. They are embedded so deep, they will never be forgotten, to be lived by from that time onward. And now, once truly embedded in the system, there is virtually no escaping from it, for it is designed to keep you almost forever. Or until you are so old there is not threat left inside, whatsoever.

Parole? Sure there is parole, but looking at that in the light of reality it is a farce also. When one person has the power, the complete power, over another person's freedom, any simple idiot can see the end result. To sign your name to a piece of paper which can send another back to incarceration is so wild, so unbelievable, it's hard to comprehend. But true. A parole officer has the authority to send a person to prison without the benefit of the court system. This could and has occurred when a personality clash emerges, a conflict of interest comes to light, or any of a number of reasons.

Neither is the public any help, in all this aggravation. What decent, law-abiding citizen wants to help or give ex-offenders the opportunity to live a normal life. They are ostracized by you, the public, and harrassed by the police; and sent to prison by a parole officer. What chances do they really have?

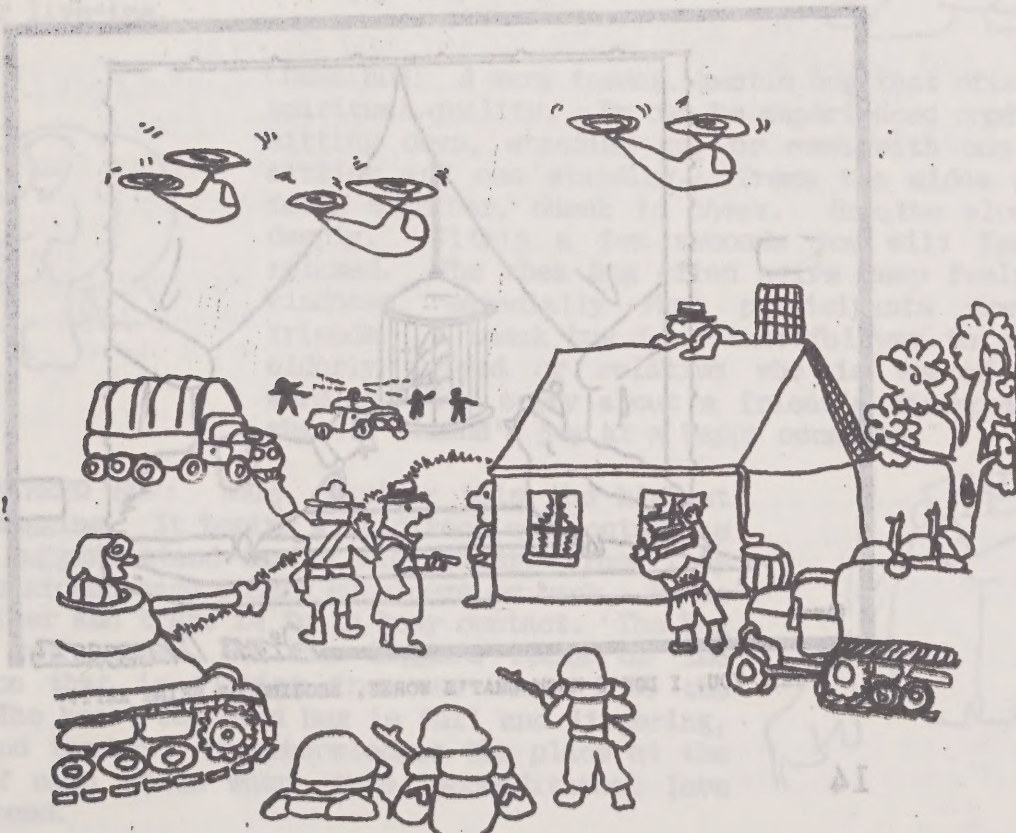
The result of all this is you're violent and a repeat offender. What is the answer? Who knows! But one thing for sure, long term incarceration or capital punishment is certainly not the solution.

Would you vote in favor of the death penalty if your son or daughter were convicted of murder? I tend to think not, so why be a hypocrite!

Bobby Brydon
#4924

(From Stony Mountain, 1985)

*"To know that you are not alone
is a freeing experience because
it can give you hope."*



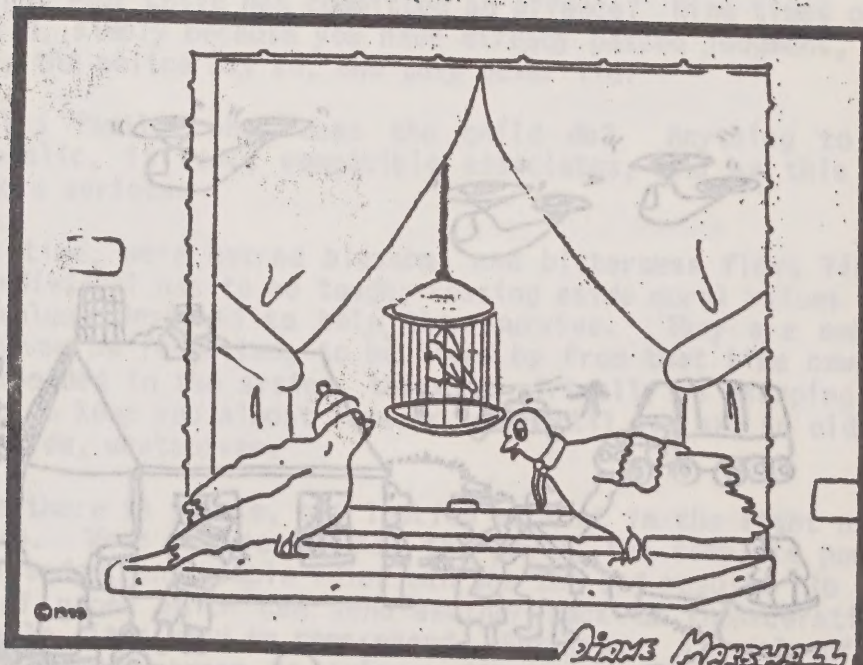
"We understand you missed a meeting
with your parole officer...."

One day someone told me that even though I was in prison my soul was free, That I was free to laugh, to love, to be happy, to feel the sunshine, but didn't they forget that I was also free to feel the pain, the sorrow, the anguish and bitterness, the loneliness and despair.

Is freedom just the ability to party and to do what ever you please or is it, the freedom to be hungry, lonely, cold and without.

So whenever you hear someone say "I wish I were free", just remind them, that freedom isn't all it's cut out to be.

S.B.



I TELL YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE, BEGGING OR BEING KEPT!

A HUG FOR ALL REASONS

by Kathleen Keating

Hugs are not only nice, they are needed. Hugs can help relieve pain and depression, make the healthy healthier, the happy happier and the most secure among us even more so. Hugging feels good, overcomes fears, eases tension, provides stretching exercises if you are short, provides stooping exercises if you are tall. Hugging also does not upset the environment, saves heat, is portable, requires no special equipment, makes happy days happier, makes impossible days possible. Here are some main types of hugs:



THE A-FRAME HUG: Stand facing each other, arms wrapped around each others shoulders, sides of heads pressed together, bodies not touching below the shoulders. The length of time spent this way is usually brief, since this is often a "hello" or "goodbye" hug. The A-frame hug is most appropriate for situations that require a degree of formality. Because it is relatively nonthreatening, it is comfortable for shy or unpracticed huggers.

BACK-TO-FRONT HUG: In the back-to-front hug, the hugger approaches the other from the back, folds arms around his or her waist and gives a gentle hug. This waist-grabber is the perfect hug to give someone who is peeling potatoes, scrubbing pans over a kitchen sink or otherwise engaged in some stand-up chore. The feeling behind it is happy and supportive. Back-to-front hugs are for househusbands, housewives and other live-ins.



CHEEK HUG: A very tender, gentle hug that often has a spiritual quality. It can be experienced comfortably sitting down, standing up, or even with one hugger sitting and one standing. Press the sides of your faces together, cheek to cheek. Breathe slowly and deeply. Within a few seconds you will feel very relaxed. The cheek hug often stirs deep feelings of kindness, especially when participants are close friends. A cheek hug is a tasteful way to greet an elderly friend or relative who is seated, say a wordless "I'm sorry about a friend's disappointment; share a friend's joy at a happy occasion.

HEART-CENTERED HUG: Many consider this the highest form of hugging. It begins with direct eye contact as the two huggers stand facing each other. Then they wrap arms around each others shoulders or back. Heads are together and there is fully body contact. The hug is firm yet gentle, as the huggers focus on the compassion that is flowing from one heart into the other. The heart-centered hug is full and lingering, caring and tender. It acknowledges the place at the center of each of us where pure, unconditional love may be found.

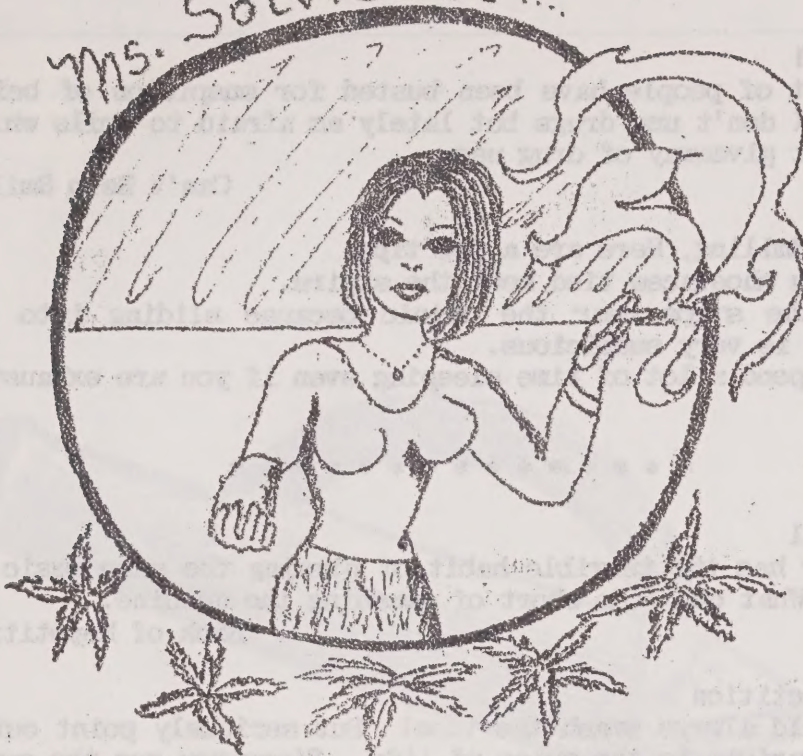


- TRANSIENT -

Stepping slowly. Distances are shorter.
Mind musing daily on its store
Of thoughts. Of dreams. Of wishes -
More - of hopes. Some withered
'Gainst my heart.
Some trying hard to be a part of life
As I go down the hill
Sloping steeper day by day (for time now gallops)
To the edge.
Of leaving here the life I've known
And lived and loved. And worn to thread-bare age
Sometimes full of pain and strife
But always full of vibrant life.
And at the end I'll say:
"Enough."
'Twas sometimes ecstasy and dancing
And sometimes tears. Bleak tones of heart-break.
But always it was deep and pulsing life.
I'll leave the path with love for other joyous feet
As I walk down the hill to unknown destiny."

- Marjorie Buckley
March 1983

Ms. Solvidoll



Advice Column...

Dear Ms Solvidoll

The security guards raided my room looking for fire hazards. They pried my unframed mirror off the wall. Everytime my personal belongings are disturbed through a search, I feel assaulted, even raped.

Signed "Brushing in the Dark"

Dear Brushing in the Dark:

I'm sure your missing mirror is making your personal hygiene routine awkward but look on the bright side. Perhaps it will give you a little extra exercise to hold your mirror up with your foot while you use one hand to hold the water on and the other to hold your toothbrush. IF YOU FEEL ASSAULTED BY THIS - YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN LONG ENOUGH; if you feel raped, you've been in too long.

Dear Ms Solvidoll

I recently got a perm which is fine while it is wet but a couple of times around the yard and it is like watching a sheep grow - on my head. I have tried greasing it and stuffing it under a cap. Help!

Signed Frazzled

Dear Frazzled:

You could try dressing like Bo Peep. Or maybe you could try weighing it down with beads. Also, shaving the head has become quite vogue lately. (No insult intended - I like it!)

Dear Ms Solvidoll

Lately a lot of people have been busted for suspicion of being under the influence. I don't use drugs but lately am afraid to smile which seems to be the biggest giveaway of drug use.

Can't Help Smiling

Dear Can't Help Smiling, Here are a few tips.

1. Keep you shoelaces tied near the stairs.
2. Watch the steps near the clinic because sliding into the med. barrier is very suspicious.
3. Don't spend a lot of time sleeping even if you are exhausted after work.

* * * * *

Dear Ms Solvidoll

My neighbour has the terrible habit of playing the same music over and over and over. What can I do short of smashing the machine.

Sick of Repetition

Dear Sick of Repetition

Well you could always smash the tape! But seriously point out to your neighbour that variety is the spice of life. Since you see the same people and do the same things, year in and year out, if she wants to be around for next year, it's time to change her tune.

* * * * *

Dear Ms Solvidoll

One of my fish has ears and I wonder if it's valuable.

Signed Just Fishing

Dear Just Fishing

Well I know the walls have ears but I can find no trace in any standard fish books of any fish with ears. I don't want to make you paranoid but I really don't think you should breed it.

* * * * *

Dear Ms Solvidoll

I am a very light sleeper and I am awakened several times during the night by the sound of keys as the guards make their hourly rounds. I don't want to go on medication. What CAN I do?

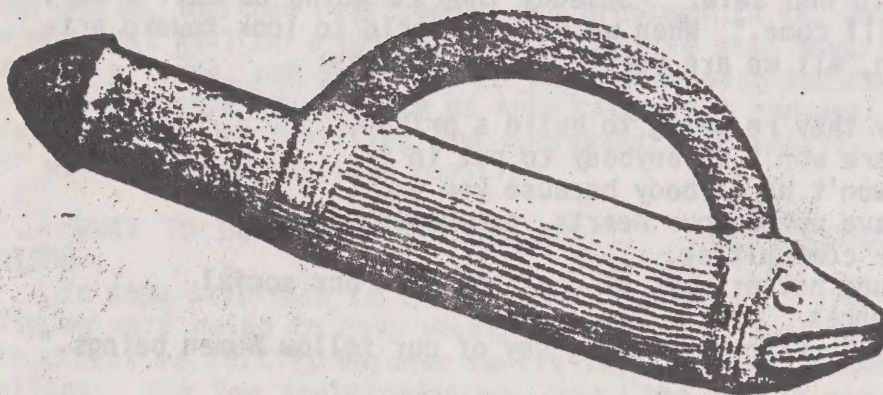
Signed Jangled

* * * * *

Dear Jangled

Try this - put together a list of songs that are soothing and make a pleasant request for them to keep the tempo. And remember: In the old days the poor souls only heard the keys once - to lock them in.

* * * * *



Stone Implement

The function of this carefully worked implement is unknown, although there are many unsubstantiated theories. The style is typical of many such stone carvings from the British Columbia region. Traces of red paint suggest that it was once covered with color; it was presumably carried by the loop handle. This specimen was found in a rock cave in Niska Valley by Lt. G. T. Emmons.

Buckley Canyon, British Columbia

INTRODUCTION TO THURSDAY NIGHT PANEL:
INT. CONF. ON PRISON ABOLITION

Ruth Morris
Author of Seeds of Abolition

A few years ago I was asked to give the presentation at the annual gathering of Quakers across Canada on why we Quakers in Canada should take a position endorsing prison abolition. Contrary to the impression you might have if I am the only Quaker you've met, not all Quakers are ardent prison abolitionists, any more than all Catholics, Anglicans, Jews, or humanists are; so it was a formidable prospect.

What came to me then was a vision based on an old story, of a little child who said: "Someday they're going to call a war, and nobody will come." When we ask the world to look toward prison abolition, all we are really saying is this:

"Someday they're going to build a prison,
And there won't be anybody to put in it.
There won't be anybody because you and I
Will have opened our hearts, our homes,
and our communities,
And found better ways of dealings with our social
differences
Than by locking and caging any of our fellow human beings."

That's all prison abolition is about, and when you look at it that way, it's not so frightening or overwhelming. It is a vision of the caring community, the community that in our hearts we would all like to live in. It is gaining security not by locking our doors against the bad people out there, or locking those bad people up in prisons; but by making the whole community a safe, caring, positive place for everyone.

What we as prison abolitionists are saying is: Let's not postpone that world forever by living in the frightened enclaves of the past. Let's move forward in faith toward the caring community of the future, the world where there won't be anyone to put in prison because our communities will be too big in spirit for prisons.

In trying to develop a conference to deal with prison abolition, I saw at the outset that we needed 3 themes, and you will find these themes runnings through the conference. We could of course spend the whole conference bemoaning the evils of prisons, and not be a step nearer the prisonless society. It is far easier to criticize than to create, but this is a conference to create. To do that, we have to answer three questions: 1) Why do we have prisons? 2) How can we begin to move away from them, and 3) What do we want in place of them? All the workshops are grouped under these 3 themes, and our speakers tonight will each address one of them.

A. ANALYZING THE SYSTEM. Nothing exists without a reason. The justice system is not altogether evil, nor is it uncaused. It represents our efforts at this point to deal with some very real problems. If we are to develop better ways of dealing with those problems, we have to understand the existing system, where it came from, what functions it serves, and therefore what needs we have to meet in order to replace it. All the workshops in the "A" group are designed to help us understand the existing prison and justice system more fully.

Personally it has been a privilege to have worked close to the heart of our local justice system for the past 3½ years, and I have a great respect for the people in that system for having tolerated and worked cooperatively with an abolitionist that long. I have never known any group of people in my life where there are so many concerned human beings trying their best to do right, and yet what we have is tragically destructive. To understand why, we have to analyze and understand the system itself.

B. HOW TO GET TO ABOLITION FROM HERE. Often people can understand their present situation and can sketch a utopia they want to get to, but have no practical ideas on immediate steps to get from A to B. So this section of workshops on "How to get to Abolition from Here" deals with that very practical area: Given the real world, and the real people and problems in it, what can we do now that will be a practical and positive step toward a world without prisons, not just another bandaid helping the imprisoning society continue to separate us into categories and deal with social problems by labelling and punishing some people. All the "B" workshops address this question.

C. WHAT TO DO WITH THE TOUGH CASES: TRUE ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON

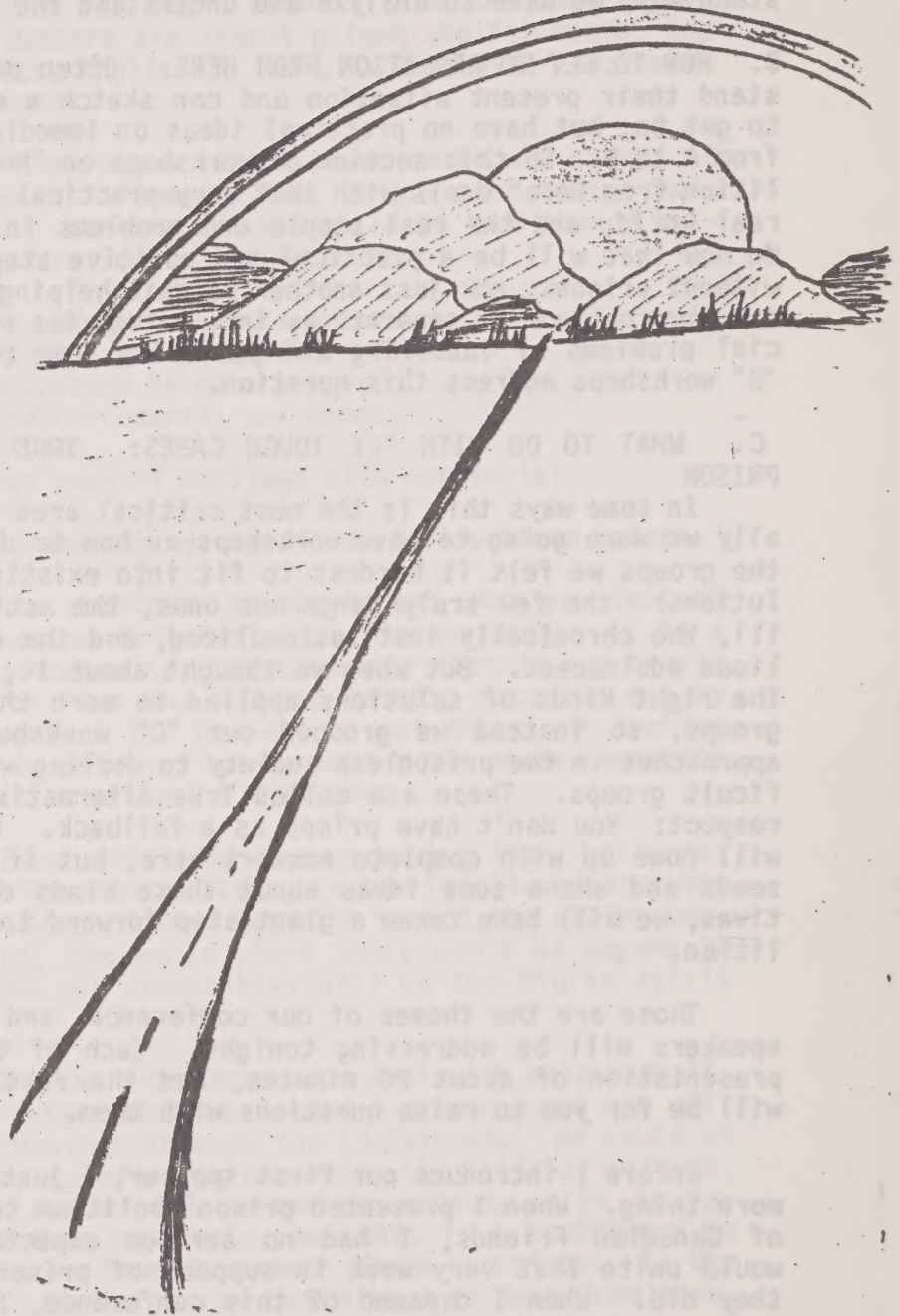
In some ways this is the most critical area of all. Originally we were going to have workshops on how to deal with each of the groups we felt it hardest to fit into existing community solutions: the few truly dangerous ones, the acting out mentally ill, the chronically institutionalized, and the extremely rebellious adolescent. But when we thought about it, we decided that the right kinds of solutions applied to more than one of those groups, so instead we grouped our "C" workshops by kinds of approaches in the prisonless society to dealing with all the difficult groups. These are called True Alternatives in one vital respect: You don't have prison as a fallback. I don't think we will come up with complete answers here, but if we can sow some seeds and share some ideas about these kinds of True Alternatives, we will have taken a giant step forward toward prison abolition.

Those are the themes of our conference, and the areas our 3 speakers will be addressing tonight. Each of them will make a presentation of about 20 minutes, and the rest of the evening will be for you to raise questions with them.

Before I introduce our first speaker, I just want to say one more thing. When I presented prison abolition to that gathering of Canadian Friends, I had no serious expectation that they would unite that very week in support of prison abolition, but they did. When I dreamed of this conference, I could not have envisioned standing here tonight with this wonderful audience of people from many countries, and an exciting 3 days of events before us, a historic step forward toward the prisonless society. I have seen too many impossible miracles happen when you have the courage to follow your dreams to call anything impossible. But you can make the future we need impossible by remaining locked in the prison of your own lack of imagination. Or you can move forward with us, dream the dream of a future without prisons, and begin to work toward it right now.

Indecisions ,
thinking you
know, but who
really does
know? Is it
worth it,
putting
yourself
through time
and time
again, to me
I don't think
it's worth
it, it's
wasting my
time. A
person has to
know at all
times where
they're at.
You spend
time paving a
road, just to
find it comes
to a dead
end. So then
you feel safe
on an open
highway,
where there's
many avenues,
and there you
have your
choice,
cruise,
cruise. If
you snooze,
you loose. I
forget where
I once heard
that, good
advice,
nonetheless,
one day I'll
remember, and
get on the
right road.

L.C.



"My parole was denied because of the
People I associate with."



Instead of Prisons

By Claire Culhane

May 15, 1983, on a Cross Country Check-Up CBC radio phone-in program, Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan assured his hearers that no one need fear Bill C-157 which he was defending. This bill, later called C-9, was passed June 28, 1984 after much criticism from all sections of the population.

We now have a CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE which puts the CIA and FBI to shame.

Mr. Kaplan also promised that non-violent dissent would still be a part of our democratic process and that no one need fear being targetted (his words, not mine) for such activities.

The same guarantee was extended to this writer when she asked if this "would also include non-violent civil disobedience at prison gates."

So - it is now on the record.

Read on.

Never has the power of words been more exploited than in prison jargon.

While most would support prison reform, particularly in areas such as medical care, visiting rights, etc. do we really mean to perpetuate the prison system itself, indefinitely?

When we call for alternatives, such as half-way houses, do we mean: accept more of the same, only modified to be a little less cruel and a little more human?

And when we finally reach the pinnacle of a call for abolition do we mean: more sophisticated methods to incapacitate without incarceration - or NO MORE PRISONS?

Alternatives, which extend the criminal justice system's range of control, - "net widening" in the new terminology - operate through channels such as probation, parole, half-way houses, community service, family court (instead of domestic counselling), treatment centres (more often psychiatric prisons), and the latest projected plan - penal colonies, dubbed L.A.C.C. (Limited Access Coerectional Communities).

To demonstrate the extent to which this pattern can escalate, already 18 of the State of Maryland in the United States is said to be living under supervision in one form or another.

And then there are the other more insidious alternatives operating under the guise of "abolition": high tech (nology), i.e. surveillance leading to those arrest whereby electronic bracelet attachments signal the wearer's movements out of their circumscribed area. Experiments in brain implantation can be expected to follow which in turn, is only a step removed from the violent, mind-control weapon, E.C.T. (Electro-Convulsive Therapy).

To reach the goal of prisons as a last resort, for the fewest number of people, for the shortest period of time, the following crimes must first be eliminated:

death penalty (over 1300 on Death Row in the USA at present)
excessive sentences (including indeterminate, which means forever)
solitary confinement (segregation, administrative dissociation, special handling unit, or by whatever name it will be known next)
forced involuntary transfer (thousands of miles from home base)
physical and psychological abuse.

By concentrating our efforts on behalf of those who are the chief victims of economic and social deprivation, as well as of racial and sexist discrimination, we would be protecting prisoners' rights at the same time as we were aiming for the abolition of prisons.

It would also more accurately qualify the term "victim" as we see a resurgence of victims' groups thirsting for vengeance, not solutions.

In the meantime, prisons can be abolished on an individual basis in the here and now. Every prisoner whose sentence has been successfully appealed represents a victory for decarceration, which means keeping them out of prison.

Every prisoner who wins a speedy parole release as soon as eligible, represents a victory for decarceration - getting them out of prisons.

Meaningful access between prisoners and community can be reinforced by placing in each prison an Independent Prisoner's Advocable accountable to the community, NOT to the Solicitor-General's office.

However, the community itself must build into its own structure a strong accountability process in order to avoid any individual or collective corruption, so often generated by inexperience and/or a taste of power.

Two roads face us as we search for the most expedient solution to the present chaos in the prison system:

Accept the trend towards control, which historically begins with the most vulnerable section of the population - in this instance, prisoners.

OR

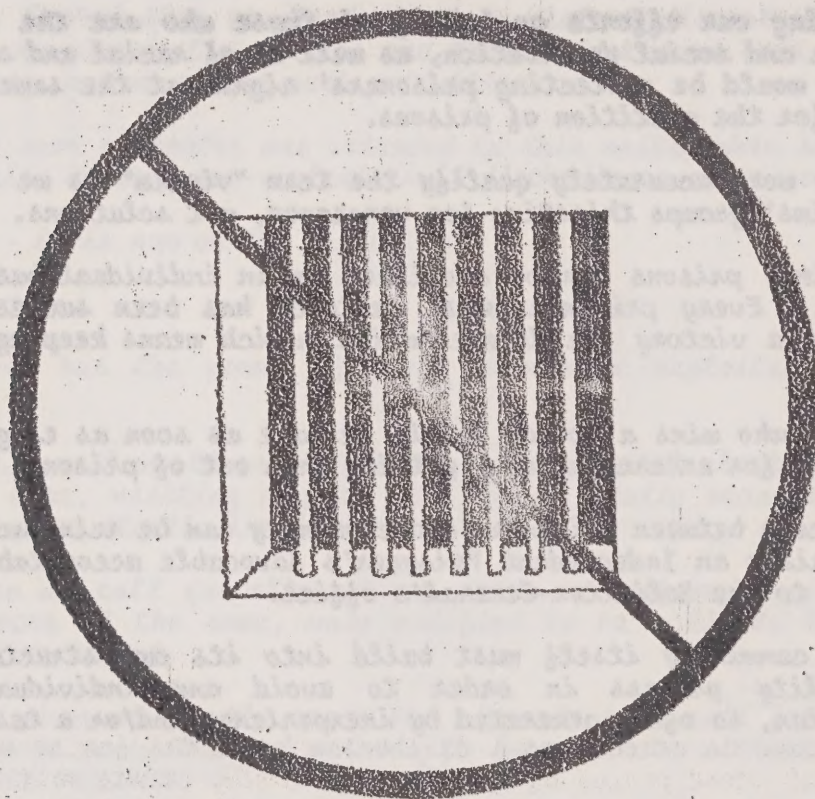
Dismantle the billion dollar prison industry with all its vested and political interests.

The most effective contribution to the abolition of prisons would be join forces with those fighting for universal abolition of poverty, abolition of war, and abolition of injustice.

WHAT THEY SAY BUT NOT WHAT THEY DO:

Prof. John Carson (Chairperson of committee appointed by the Solicitor-General to make recommendations for the more efficient management of Canadian prisons):

"I would really hope that Canadian society would want to move more and more to seeing prison as a last, and only last, resort. Most of the European societies and others that we've looked at incarcerate far fewer people -- they find other solutions." (Prison Violence, Newsday, CBC TV, April 4, 1985)



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SHORT PRISON SENTENCE!

"PROGRAMS BRANCH USER REPORT" (1985) from the Solicitor General of Canada lists all the transition houses available. Inquire at the Tight-wire office.

Jail sentences which are too long for prisoners who do not pose a violent threat to society was the recent topic of a speech given by Solicitor General, Elmer Mackay, at a Criminal Justice Congress in July.

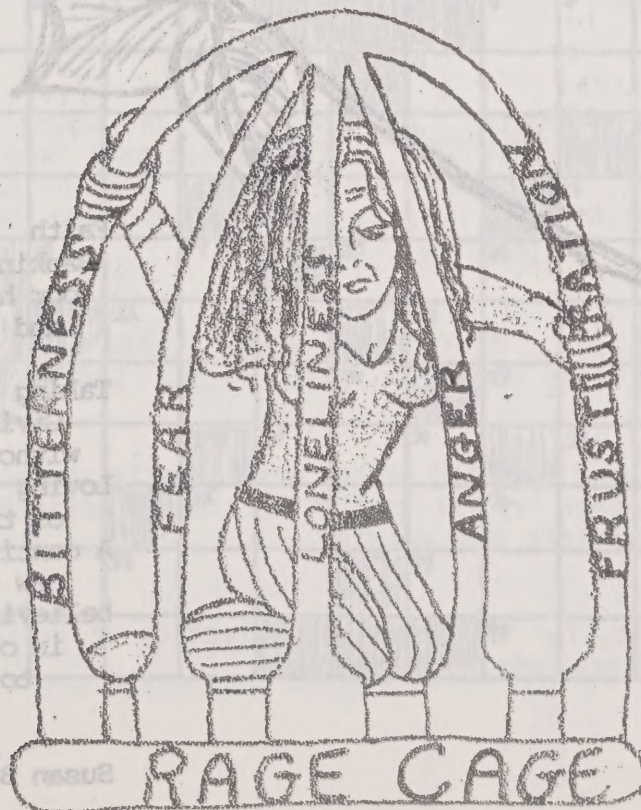
He states, "This is especially so in view of the huge cost of maintaining inmates in prison when they could be safely maintained in the community. It costs one-tenth the money to give effective street supervision than it does to hold an inmate in prison unnecessarily."

Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 12,000 inmates presently serving time have sentences of less than five years and of that amount, more than half are convicted of property crimes without violence. Roughly $\frac{2}{3}$ of inmates in the penitentiary system are there for the first time. Nearly 70% of all paroles granted are successful and mandatory supervision succeeds 50% of the time.

Mr. Mackay feels that with a careful selection and improved community supervision that more inmates can be released earlier in their sentences at little additional risk to the community with greater savings to the taxpayer. This would also have significant benefits for the successful re-integration of offenders to their homes and families.

Solicitor General Mackay feels that it is time to review the entire criminal justice system.

(excerpt from The Whig Standard, July 11, 1985)



Feminist -- Your Duty

I don't want to be a woman anymore
I can't stand being called a girl
Instead I think I want to be
A barbed wire fence.

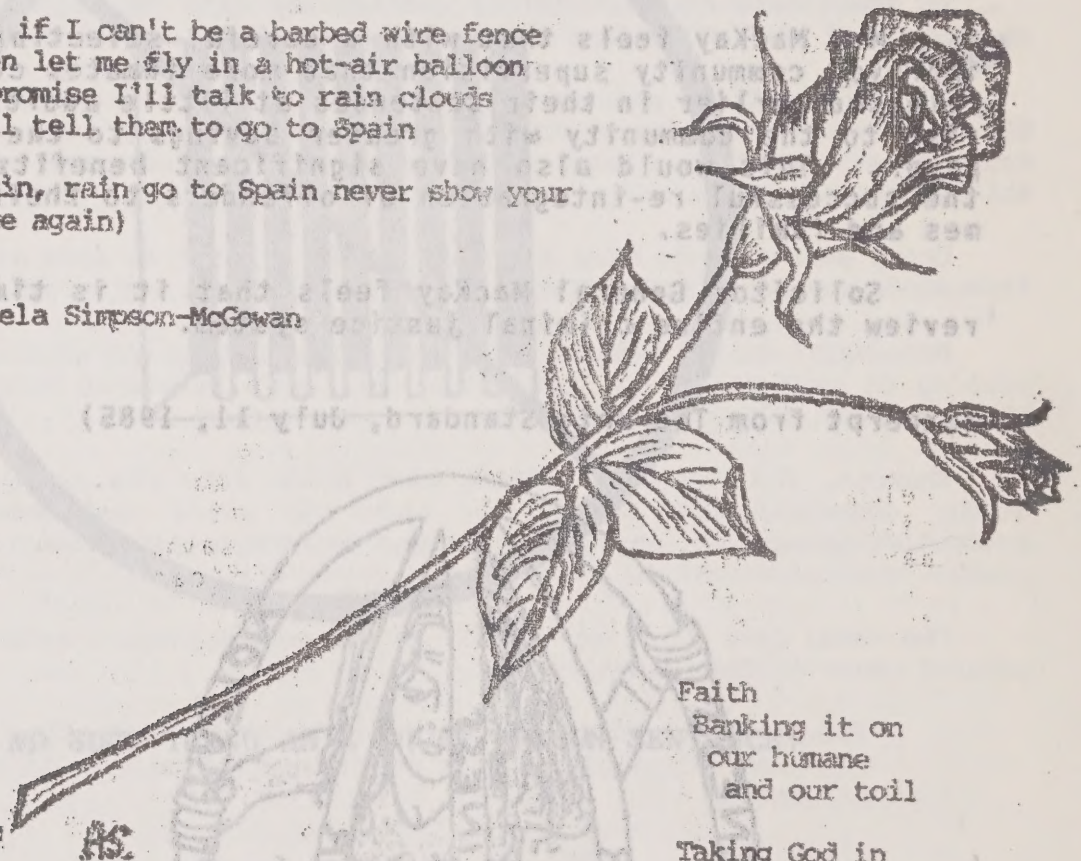
Then just you try to climb over me
Or pull me down with your hand
My little sharp edges will cut you up
Until you bleed

And when you see the colour of your blood
Then you'll leave me be
And let me surround the field
Protect the growing seed

But if I can't be a barbed wire fence
Then let me fly in a hot-air balloon
I promise I'll talk to rain clouds
I'll tell them to go to Spain

(rain, rain go to Spain never show your
face again)

Shiela Simpson-McGowan



Faith
Banking it on
our humane
and our toil

Taking God in
Giving God out
without count
Loving the aliveness
of the inspired
A continuum of a
new sense of
believing
in our efforts
to be well.

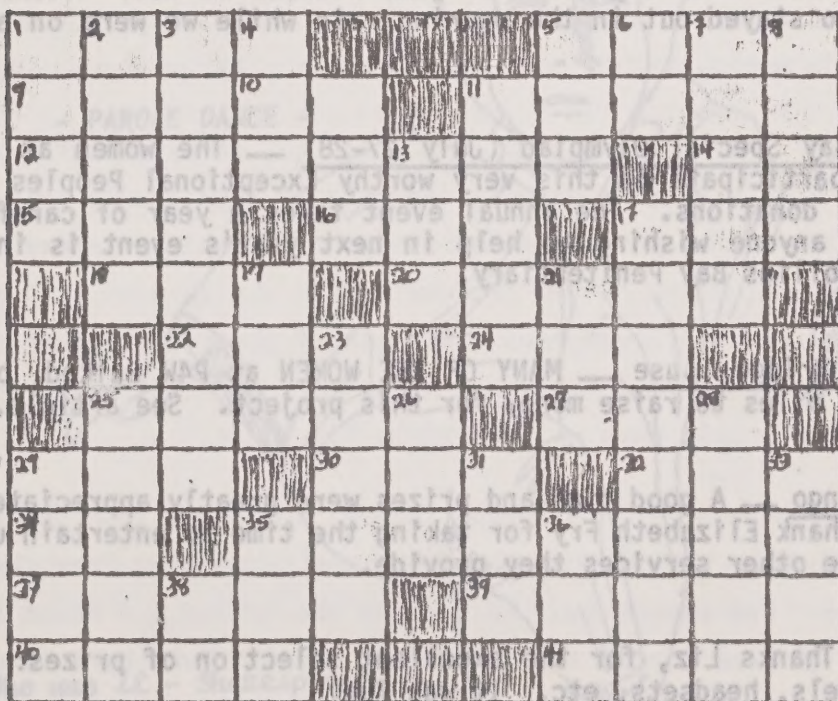
ACROSS

- 1 Departed
- 5 Market
- 9 Worship
- 11 Bus passenger
- 12 Extraordinary events
- 14 Not any
- 15 Summer (Fr.)
- 16 Union of weight
- 17 Florid
- 18 The girl
- 20 Indian tent
- 22 Reply (abbr.)
- 24 Existed
- 25 Go in
- 27 Hawaiian garland
- 29 Ancient
- 30 Native of (suffix)
- 32 Period in history
- 34 Ma's spouse
- 35 Biased (hyph. wd.)
- 37 Make amends
- 39 Tendency
- 40 Periods of fasting
- 41 Products (suffix)

DOWN

- 1 Weak
- 2 Prepares to publish
- 3 Tennis stroke
- 4 - la la
- 5 Wrong (prefix)
- 6 Public notice
- 7 Woman's name
- 8 Walked on
- 10 Outside (prefix)
- 11 Take up again
- 13 Land parcel
- 17 Showed again
- 19 Within (prefix)
- 21 Chum
- 23 Fishing net
- 25 Fill with joy
- 26 Route (abbr.)
- 28 Girl of song
- 29 Jewelry stone
- 31 Superlative suffix
- 33 Finds the sum
- 35 Part of Canada (abbr.)
- 36 Novelist Levin
- 38 Forward

For crossword - Answers on page



220RDA

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

Family Day was very successful. Thank you goes out to the Inmate Committee and all the volunteers who made this special event possible. Thank you, Sharon Blanchfield (the artist who designed the cover for this issue) for inviting Handsome Ned and the Sidewinders to entertain us. It was great to see children laughing, riding the pony and playing with the clown.

Showers forced us indoors where the gym was set up with tables bearing fresh cut flowers. The Kitchen girls did an excellent job with the buffet supper. The dance floor was packed. A good time was had by all.

Sports Day was definitely memorable. A good time was had by all, wasn't it?

The tug-of-war was no contest. Twelve residents of P4W took the challenge from eight male + two female staff and downed them 3 x.

Although the day was particularly humid by the time the dance rolled around, everyone was looking especially cool and relaxed. Trophies were presented to Myrna McIssac and Eileen Young as top athletes of the day.

Ball Game — The employees of the Whig Standard came in for a ball game. We mention this particular game because we won. Thanks to the guards who stayed out in the pouring rain while we were on a winning streak.

Collins Bay Special Olympiad (July 27-28) — The women at P4W were able to participate in this very worthy Exceptional Peoples Olympiad by way of donations. The annual event takes a year of careful planning and anyone wishing to help in next year's event is invited to contact Collins Bay Penitentiary.

Walk for Bridge House — MANY OF THE WOMEN at P4W walked, biked and jogged 10 miles to raise money for this project. See article.

E. Fry Bingo — A good time and prizes were greatly appreciated and we wish to thank Elizabeth Fry for taking the time to entertain us on top of all the other services they provide.

Bingo — Thanks Liz, for the excellent selection of prizes: plants, mats, towels, headsets, etc. It was fun.

Penal Colony proposal stupid

Not only is the federal solicitor-general's penal colony concept at Tasu in the Queen Charlotte Islands "facetious, silly" (T.C. Enermark, Dec. 7) and "incomprehensively insensitive" (Joyce Stewart, Dec. 8), it is also downright stupid.

If we are seeking vengeance, then the moon's the limit, as some even fantasize about locating prisoners in space. But if we are looking for human solutions to human problems, then let's find constructive alternatives to prisons.

To name just one, victim-offender projects offer useful restitution programs that aim to compensate victims or their families; reinforce prisoners' efforts to return to society better adjusted; and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Such programs require close integration into the community, not isolation on far-away islands.

CLAIRE CULHANE
for: Prisoners' Rights Group

803-2075 East 12th

(From the Vancouver Sun, Dec. 27/83)

- PAROLE DANCE -



Who was it - Shakespeare
that said "the world is a stage"?

females in PRISON

A male prisoner sentenced to a penitentiary, in most cases, is sent to the nearest penitentiary from where he was convicted; a female prisoner is sent to Kingston, Ontario. A male prisoner can be sent to a maximum, medium or minimum security prison depending on the length of his sentence; a female prisoner, regardless of the length of her sentence or type of crime, is sent to the Prison for Women, a maximum security prison in Kingston - the only female federal penitentiary. This is sexual discrimination in its rankest form. Whether it is true or not that the female is the deadlier of the species, Canada accepts it as the gospel and acts accordingly.

The Prison for Women is situated just up the street from the male Kingston Penitentiary and it reminds one of the "bastille" except for the relatively new wall that surrounds it. It is a miserable and dismal looking prison and the feelings of a woman entering through the front gate can only be imagined. It is probably similar to what a male prisoner experiences when he enters Millhaven, Kent or Archambault for the first time. While most of the male maximum security prisons have double wire fences surrounding them which enables prisoners to have a view of the outside world, the Prison for Women has a large stone wall.

It is true that there are only approximately 125 female federal prisoners in Canada and it wouldn't be economically feasible to have female prisons throughout the country but that isn't any consolation to a female prisoner from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Nova Scotia who is sent to a prison thousands of miles away from her loved ones. Because of their small number, it also isn't economically feasible to introduce a large variety of programs that would be beneficial to the prisoners at the Prison for Women.

Some provinces have agreed to accept federal prisoners into their provincial system but, in some cases, that is tantamount to jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Can anyone imagine leaving the Prison for Women for a transfer to Oakalla? (I mean anyone in their right mind). But there is one solution and it could be realized in our own federal system.

Females in Prison (Cont'd)

There are female guards, female living unit officers, clerks and secretaries employed in male prisons (this probably stems from the equality of sexes battle) so why not female prisoners? There are coed prisons in the United States and we act towards that country as if they were Gods; we adopt a lot of their negative policies so why not adopt one of their positive ones? There is a trailer which holds 20 prisoners at William Head and there are rumours that a couple more are going to be added so why can't one or two of them be reserved for female prisoners? They could attend the university program (unless Big Bob in Ottawa cancels it completely) or they could be employed doing the same thing male prisoners are presently doing. It would add a little more humanity to the prison and it would benefit the woman prisoners by bringing them closer to their families and also get them out of a maximum security prison. In the Kingston area, there are three minimum security institutions and while two of them are farm camps, the third one, Bath Institution, has a large kitchen where the food is cooked for Millhaven; Bath also has a microfilm project. A trailer could be moved onto the property and the women could be housed in it. Similar programs could be set up in Bowden, Alberta and Springhill, Nova Scotia.

Of course, a suggestion like this will be ignored by everyone because of the possible consequences. What is the consequence that would upset the authorities the most? It is probably the direst horror of all horrors, a few romances might develop and our righteous citizens wouldn't stand for that. To paraphrase the Red Rose Tea commercial, "Not in Canada, you say. Pity!"

George Watson

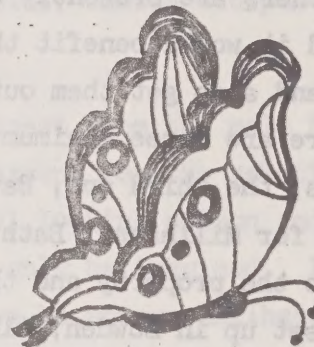
Credit - Editor, "Out of Bounds"

This article is quite old but still ahead of changes; the only thing that has changed is the Solicitor-General.

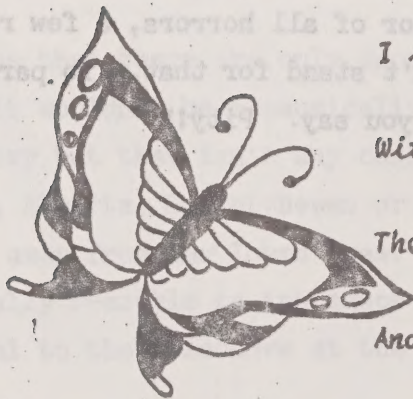
"THE HARDEST PART IS, LETTING GO . . ."

Sunsets are pure
When two lovers meet
The whole world looks beautiful
Their lives are complete
One needs the other
It's a shame to be apart
Love strikes like lightning
Piercing the heart.
They have too many dreams
Too many plans
Time stands still
Their feelings expands
'Til one breaks the news
"I can't wait no more"
What we once had
Has been thrown out the door.
I can say nothing
For her mind is her own
I can always love her
For now I'm alone
Babe, I guess it's time to go
I'll call again some day
But always remember
The love was worth my stay!

- P. Reed



WOMEN



As I sit there and think
of the women in my life
(past and present of course)
I realize that the best
or perhaps the worst
were always the ones
With the kindest hearts and
the most overflowing love
(for everyone)
They were the most disarming women
but my terrible jealousy
over-rode their natural charm
And now, I am all alone
and I wish I had
that ability to love
Everyone and let them be
just as they were meant to be
and maybe have that wonderful
Natural regard returned.

- P. Reed

Heterosexual Homosexual Transsexual

Since the dawn of man, there have been persons of such individuality that, it is only with, mans insatiable quest for knowledge, and the passage of time, that, civilization, with it's eternal prejudice and erratic levels of acceptability, has been able to fully acknowledge the limitless horizons within which, each of us, has the undeniable right to exist as a wholly unique being.

To date; the above statement, on the whole, could be said, to contain a large percentage of truth. I am only concerned with the people whom fall into the smaller percentage, where ignorance and lack of understanding prevails.

Persons, known as Pre-operative Transsexuals, in this level of time are members of this percentage. The incarcerated Pre-op. T.S. are, essentially, who suffer to the greatest degree from "Societies'" failure of ability to accept. To whom does he reach out to for support and assistance? The brothers and sisters in the Gay Rights Movement? The vast majority of Gay Rights Organizations, any legal assistance inclusive, not only refuse to help, but, more often than not, they fail to even acknowledge the receipt of mail requesting any type of aid. As long as any Pre-op. T.S. has been unable to enlist assistance from "outside", he has been left to battle the legal and penal systems to the exhaustion of their own resources.

Prison administrators must soon begin to realize that, with the passage of time, we are now in the 20th Century, and they are entrusted with a moral obligation to treat those under their care; regardless of the nature of treatment necessary, so that they are capable of returning to society as, positive, productive individuals. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has recognized a constitutionally-derived right, of control over ones' own body. Therefore, as long as any Pre-op. T.S. is in the prison system for crimes committed against society, then that same society should see that they receive as complete as possible all the benefits available from incarceration.

It is becoming apparent that a large number of psychiatrists, psychologists and even some members of the Gender Identity Clinics, who do not possess sufficient knowledge of transsexualism are of the opinion that there are manifold problems inherent within any Pre-op., T.S. trying to obtain various gender re-assignment therapy during incarceration. While the partial plausibility of this is accepted for those persons serving short sentences, it is a gross misconception on behalf those incarcerated for any lengthy periods of time. What has been totally disregarded here is the perspective viewpoint and definition of "lengthy periods" by each Pre-op. T.S. This must be taken into consideration, as it is totally inconceivable to even contemplate the fact that someone could possibly stop being whom they are simply because the courts have sentenced them to a term of incarceration. The equivalent psychological and sexual urges and needs which have compelled these people towards the sex re-assignment in the beginning do not cease to exist within them, due only to the fact that they are now existing within a prison environment. If this were so, then upon entering this environment these urges and needs would have been controlled and eventually totally vanquished. At this point they would have been "cured" and the problem eradicated, nor, would they continue to fight for their recognition and rights as an adult Transsexual.

continued

One of the numerous obstacles that the Pre-op. T.S. will encounter within the prison bureaucracy, is that of the inability of the prison authorities and of the inmate populace to differentiate between homosexual and transsexual. The transsexual is not a homosexual. They have no desire to form an alliance with someone of their own sex. They wish to forge an emotional and sexual relationship with a male/female of the opposite sex.

Numerous prison physicians will insist, if transsexual therapy has been requested that the Pre-op. T.S. in question, had been participating in some recognized gender identity programme prior to their arrest, before any consideration or acknowledgement that therapy is even possible would be forthcoming. Due to the fact that it is a reality that these programmes maintained within the recognized clinics may be expensive and this expense may not be easily met. Many Pre-op. T.S.'s acquire their hormones without the required preliminary lab test or follow-up bloodwork, from sympathetic doctors; the legality of which is inconsequential. Regardless of their previous medical arrangements the intake of hormones into their system is essential for a specified period of time, for advancement in their sex re-assignment.

There are few, if any alternatives accessible, for Transsexuals whom find themselves confined within the prison system. The area of medical health has been accorded such co-institutional underprinting that even eventual recommendation for medical treatment in this area were to be forthcoming, the directives themselves are so inconclusive that revision would be essential to cover all the requirements necessary.

Unfortunately, prison physicians under the direction of unenlightened conservative prison administrators are hesitant to prescribe hormones or cosmetic surgery for the incarcerated Pre-op T.S., solely on their own initiative. Prison psychiatrists/psychologists procrastinate and are disinclined to classify or diagnose any inmate as a "Pre-op T.S." To avoid the obvious bureaucratic complications and to excessively oversimplify the situation, they re-allocate the classification to that of "Gay". These psychiatrists/psychologists persist in trying to "convince" the depressed T.S., if they persist in treatment at all that this assertion of theirs is a misconception or non-existent.

Medical science has yet to discover either cause or "cure" for the transsexual (other than sex re-assignment) nor has any prolonged psycho-therapy been successful in altering a transsexual's identification with the opposite sex, including their desire for surgical modifications. The prison physicians and administrators have justified their decisions for denying the Pre-op T.S. therapy and surgery with a multitude of widely varying rationalizations.

T.S. therapy and subsequent surgery, is an acknowledged rehabilitative process. It is difficult to comprehend that any programme which has shown a proven success rate, in the rehabilitation of a person, can be so disregarded by the correctional system. Dr. John Money, of the Gender Identity Clinic has studied 24 cases individually, from his files in an attempt to determine objectively the consequences of the surgery phase of the sex re-assignment in "social" terms, finding it significant that: "no patient acquired a police record for the first time, following re-assignment. The majority . . . melt into a law abiding obscurity . . . the cost to society for policing and jailing T.S.'s will not increase . . . it is more likely to decrease".

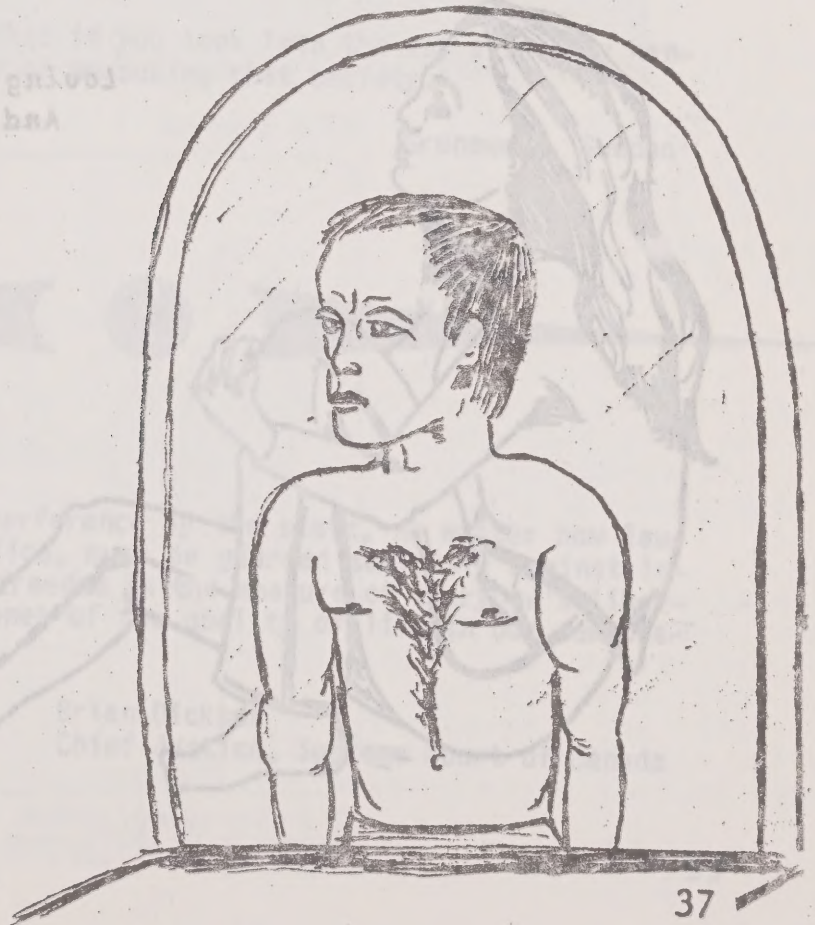
The frightening aspect of the treatment of T.S. in the past, is the fear that our judicial system and society may well continue on the misconceived path of judgments, and react as emotionally biased towards any future scientific advances. Society fear progress and change, through the ages adversity has arisen out of developing and modernizing our biological and psychological knowledge. The enlightening process of anything that is considered dissimilar to accepted traditions and known ideas will inevitably always incur resistance and denial.

In the words of one civilized author: "it is for the law to try and catch the ever fleeting shadow of the needs of society not for society to adapt to the law". In this context, it is apparent that our law should extend its support and protections of rights to the Transsexuals comparable to the protections conferred upon all people regardless of any and all, as yet, fully acceptable standards.

Medical science has yet to develop the Perfectly balanced psychological and biological human; the only perfect human facet we are all endowed with is that of the ability to err. Therefore, our "Civilized Society" should expand our horizons within which each of us exists individually and with which we all repeatedly extoll our indisputable ability to be "humane" and people should learn to acknowledge and accept unconditionally the existence of transsexuals, their right to become whole individuals and the propriety and necessity of any acts inclusive in a sex re-assignment area that enables a person to achieve their objective in life.

In Brotherhood

Jayson D. Demaeyer

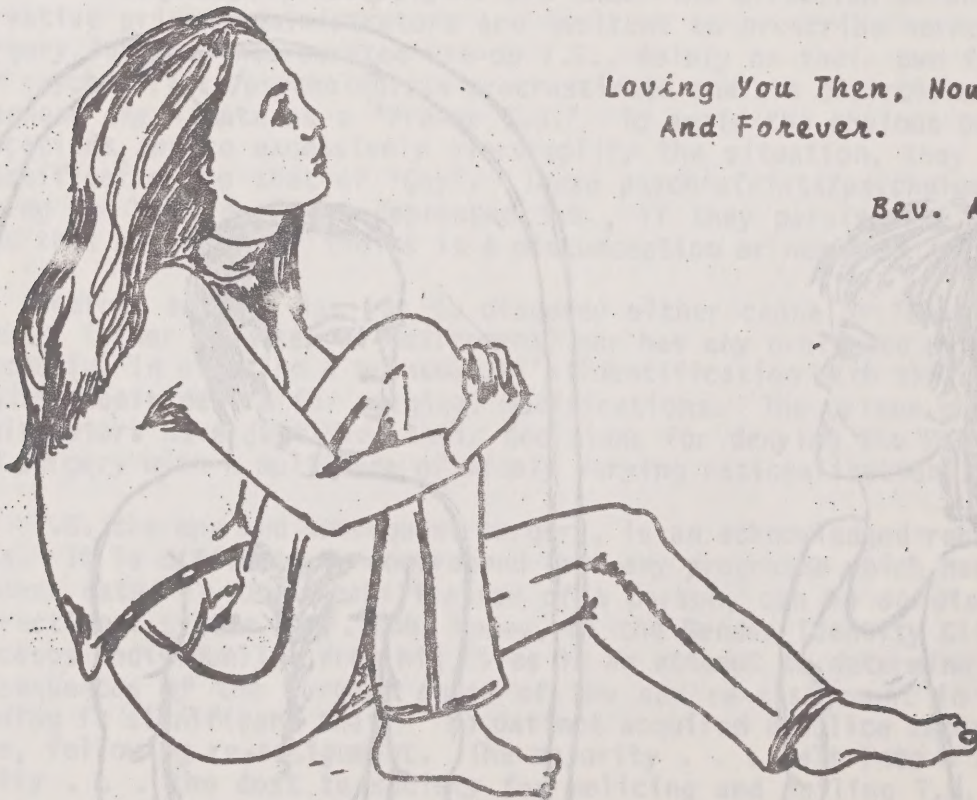


For Dawn, the Woman of My Dreams

Babe the time we've been apart
Has made me stop and see . . .
All the years we've both shared
And what they mean to me.
We've conquered all that's come our way,
Because our "Love" was "Strong" . . .
The time in Fort Saskatchewan
You said the place was wrong
It's memories like that which I enjoy
I think of how you smiled . . .
People passing stopped to stare
They must have thought us Wild! . . .
But Babe I'd do it all Again
Until time itself stands still
I'll wait forever for your love . . .
Dawn you know I will.

Loving You Then, Now
And Forever.

Bev. Auger



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Elizabeth Ross



Power always thinks it has great soul and vast views, beyond the comprehension of the weak; and that it is doing God's service, when it is violating all His laws!

John Adams



I always have the feeling that if you look into the way a society handles correction, it's a way of measuring that society.

Grunewald, Sweden'



Individual freedom from interference by the state, no matter how laudable the motive of the police, must be guarded zealously against intrusion. Ultimately, this freedom is the measure of everyone's liberty and one of the cornerstones of the quality of life in our democratic society.

Brian Dickson
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Canada



The Judge



"In arriving at your decision, I trust you will not be influenced by the court's casual use of the phrase 'scum of the earth'."

PALMISTRY

Everyone will agree that each individual has a unique set of fingerprints. It is a well-known fact that, even if the skin be burned off the hands or removed by an acid, in a short time the lines will re-appear exactly as they were before, and the same happens to the ridges or "spirals" in the skin of the inside tips of the fingers and thumb.

The study of hands can be traced back to the very earliest, most enlightened forms of society. Palmistry green and found favour in the eyes of those who have given us laws and philosophies that we employ today, notably Aristotle. When power of the Church began to be felt outside the domain and jurisdiction of religion, palmistry was denounced. The history of any dominant creed or sect is the history of opposition to knowledge, unless the knowledge comes through them. Yet the original Hebrew of the Book of Job (23-7) reads "God caused signs or seals on the hands of all the sons of them, that the sons of men might know their works."

Today the modern science is coming to the rescue of the so-called superstition of the past. All over the world scientists are slowly sweeping aside prejudice and beginning to study occult questions.

There is not enough room to get into a detailed analysis of the hand but we thought it would be entertaining to present a few of the signs that may show what your future has promise. New lines can form every couple of years. The most common questions people ask are:

Will I have money?

Will I have marriage and children?

How long will I live?

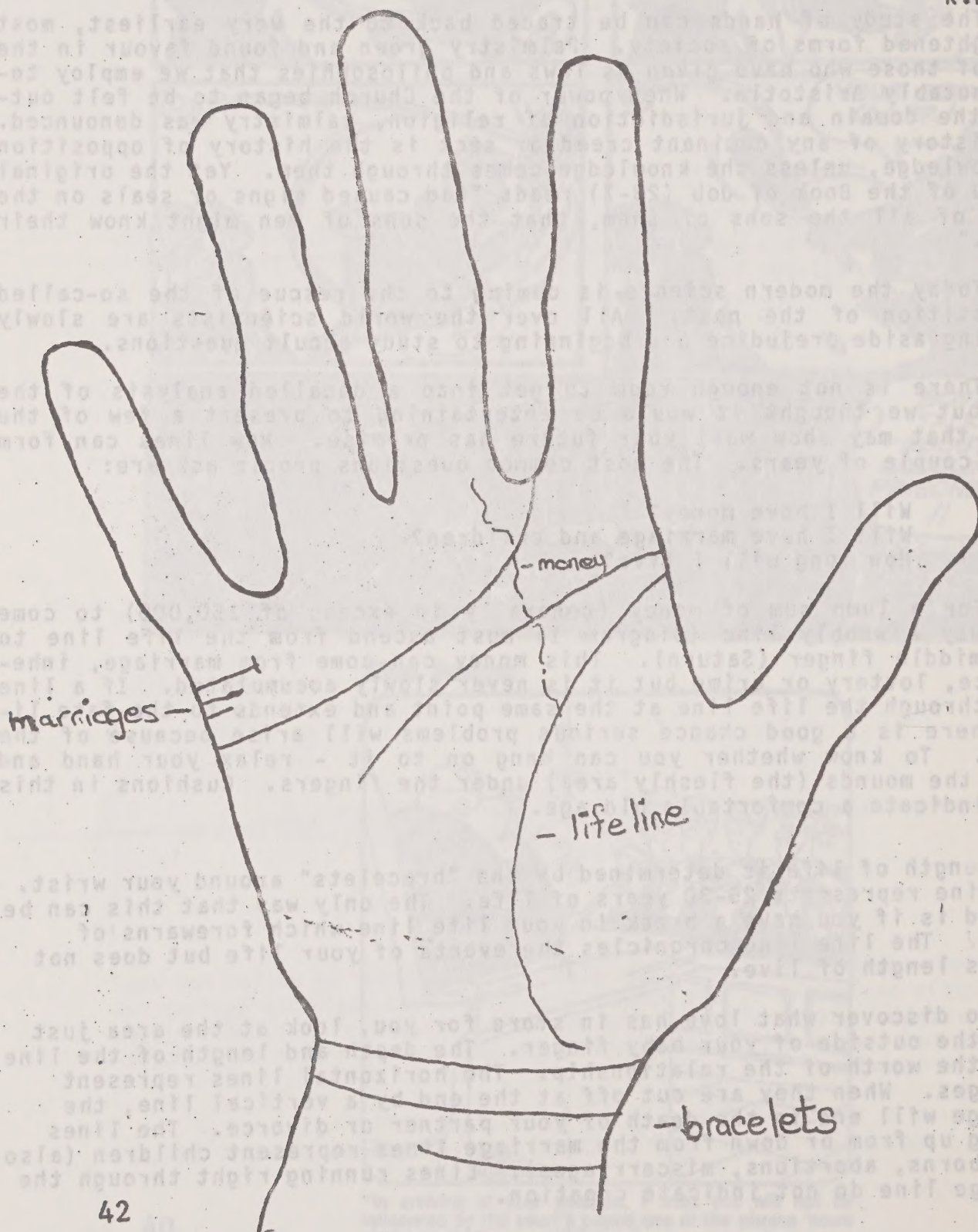
For a lump sum of money (generally in excess of \$50,000) to come your way a wobbly line (Diagram 1) must ascend from the life line to your middle finger (Saturn). This money can come from marriage, inheritance, lottery or crime but it is never slowly accumulated. If a line cuts through the life line at the same point and extends to the fate line, there is a good chance serious problems will arise because of the money. To know whether you can hang on to it - relax your hand and check the mounds (the fleshly area) under the fingers. Cushions in this area indicate a comfortable old age.

Length of life is determined by the "bracelets" around your wrist. Each line represents 25-30 years of life. The only way that this can be changed is if you have a break in your life line which forewarns of trauma! The life line chronicles the events of your life but does not express length of life.

To discover what love has in store for you, look at the area just below the outside of your baby finger. The depth and length of the line shows the worth of the relationship. The horizontal lines represent marriages. When they are cut off at the end by a vertical line, the marriage will end in the death of your partner or divorce. The lines running up from or down from the marriage lines represent children (also still borns, abortions, miscarriages). Lines running right through the marriage line do not indicate creation.

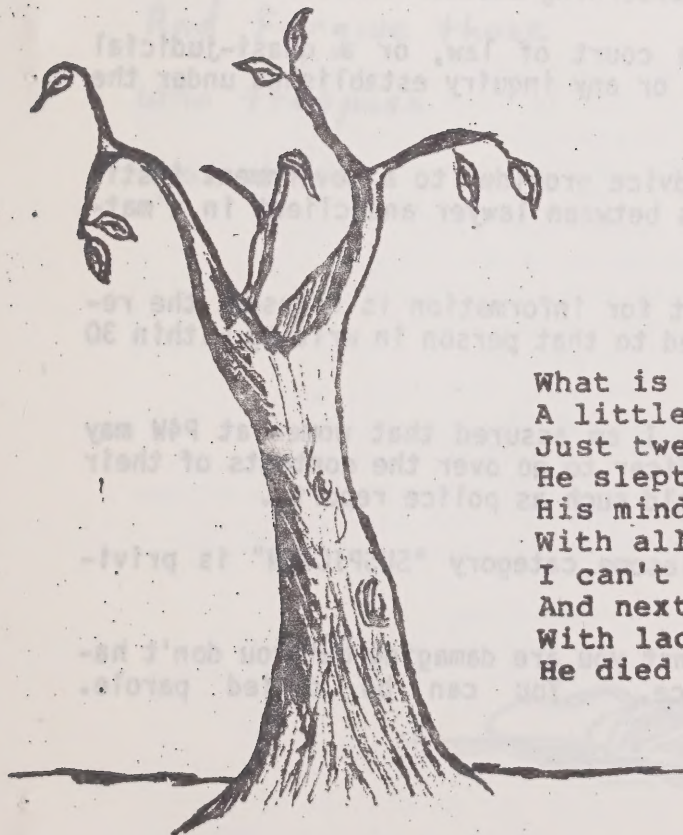
This article is meant to mildly entertain you. The volumes of written materials on the subject are often contradictory. The study, in my estimation, that is the most realistic is written by Cheiro. If you have someone read your hand, be sure that they tell you of events past or present before you accept their predictions regarding your future.

K.L.



Fleeing down a dirty street
 and threatened by the light of dawn
 I seek a place to ease my mind
 By turning on
 They call me things that bear
 The wings
 Of Satan's doves of black
 I run for days
 Through dual ways
 Never daring to look back
 Your mind has fled
 They scream and shout
 From the evil over which I fawn
 That lovely heroin
 Oh my God
 As if the Devil
 Pushed
 Me on.

- A. Feliks



SUICIDE

What is life, he said through tears.
 A little bit of junk and too many fears.
 Just twenty-one and on the streets;
 He slept his nights on park bench seats.
 His mind confused, he did not know,
 With all-life's paths, which way to go.
 I can't go one, the paper said,
 And next to that, the man lay dead.
 With lack of love and tear drops dried,
 He died alone in suicide.

- G. Wright

Privacy Act

Canadians are guaranteed the right of access to personal information about them held by federal governments departments and agencies. The Act gives individuals the right to know if there is any information about them in a federal information bank listed in the Index, to know the uses made of the information, to examine their records, to request corrections to their own records where they believe there is an error or omission, or to require a notation to be made to their own records where the department or agency does not agree that a correction is justified. They also are to be consulted by the government agency before information provided by the individuals is used for the purposes which are not consistent with the purpose for which it was originally provided.

The Act provides Ministers with discretion to refuse access to a record contained in an information bank under Section 54, when in their opinion, the record contains information which, if made known might, in respect of any individual under sentence for an offence against any Act of Parliament

- lead to a serious disruption of that individual's institutional, parole or mandatory supervision program.
- reveal information originally obtained on a promise of confidentiality, express or implied.
- result in physical or other harm to that individual or any other person.

Under the main body of discretion other reasons are cited that may also be used in the case of incarcerated people:

- might reveal personal information concerning another individual.
- might impede the functioning of a court of law, or a quasi-judicial board, commission or other tribunal or any inquiry established under the Inquiries Act, or
- might disclose legal opinions or advice provided to a government institution or privileged communications between lawyer and client in a matter of government business.

In every case where a person's request for information is refused, the refusal and the reason for it must be provided to that person in writing within 30 days. The decision can be appealed.

In conversations with classification, I am assured that women at P4W may make a request to their case management officer to go over the contents of their files. Certain documentation may be withheld such as police reports.

Anything that falls under the troublesome category "SUSPICION" is privileged.

The allegations offered covertly against you are damaging but you don't have the right to prove your innocence. You can be denied parole.

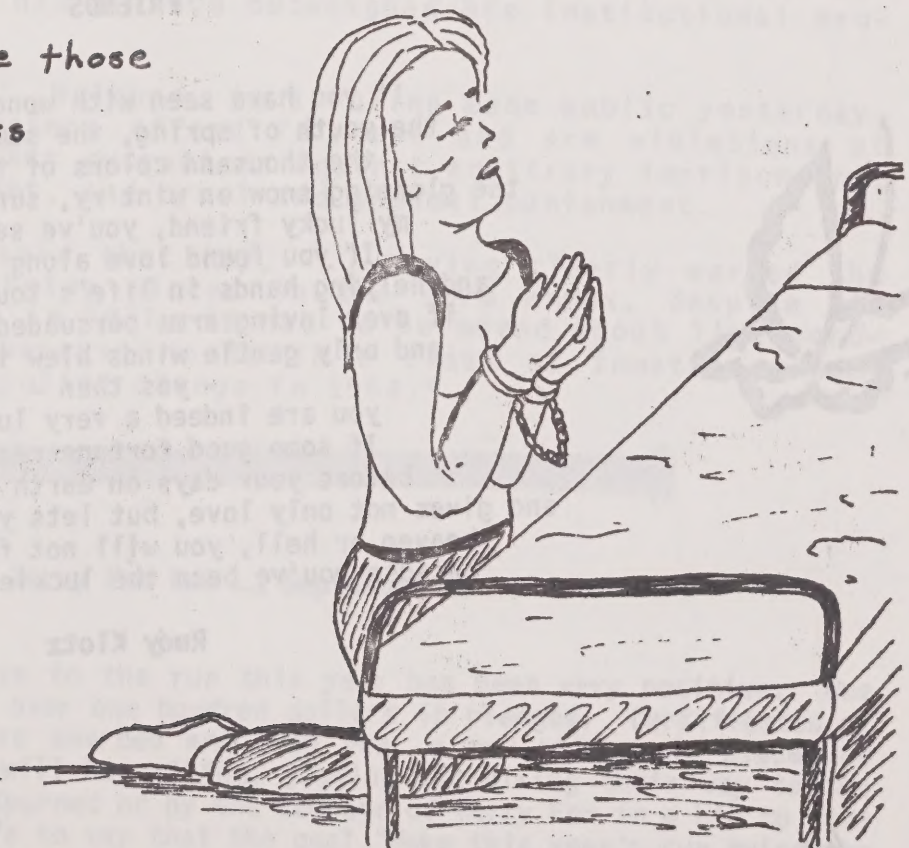
Heaven and Hell

A priest spoke with the Lord about heaven and hell. "I will show you hell," said the Lord, and they went into a room where a large pot of stew sat in the centre. The smell was delicious, but around the pot sat famished and desperate people. All were holding spoons with long handles that reached to the pot, but because the handles of the spoons were longer than their arms, it was impossible for them to feed themselves.

"Now I will show you heaven," said the Lord. They entered an identical room with a similar pot of stew. The people had identical spoons, but they were well-nourished and happy, talking to each other. At first, the priest did not understand. "It is simple," said the Lord. "You see, they have learned to feed each other."

(from The Anglican Digest, Pentecost A.D., 1984)

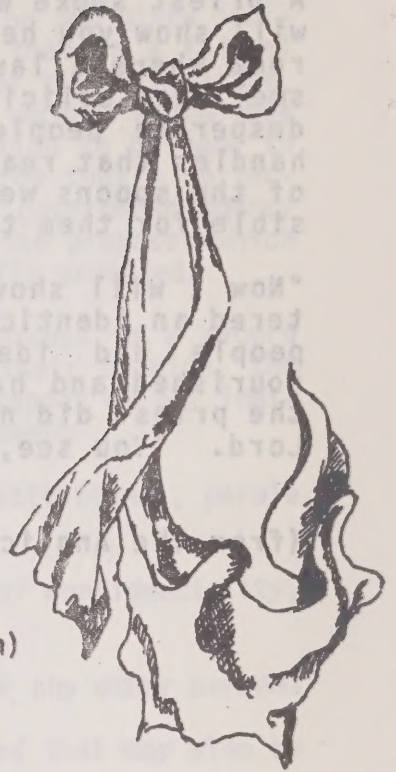
And forgive those
who trespass
Against me...



Loosening the Apron Strings

As a child, I never hesitated
to scuttle for the protection
of mother's skirt.
On the nights when thunder clapped the sky
and storms came,
her bed offered more security than mine.
Yah, mom was there to smooth
the turbulent times of high school days,
womanhood, boyfriend.
She was always good for bail money,
got me out of jams when I underwent
the "petty crime" stage.
Why is she walking away now?
Why didn't she pay the bail?
All she left me was
a tear-stained letter,
the clang of electronic doors
and nothing but the night
to hide in.

(from Janet Trudel, nothing but the night to hide in)



FRIENDS

If you have seen with wond'rous eyes
the youth of spring, the summers gold -
the thousand colors of the Fall,
the gleaming snow on wint'ry, sunny mountain tops,
my lucky friend, you've seen it all.

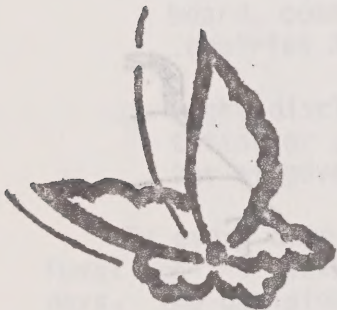
If you found love along the way
and helping hands in life's tough daily race,
if ever loving arms persuaded you to stay
and only gentle winds blew in your face,

- yes then -

you are indeed a very lucky man.

If some good fortune reaches out
before your days on earth are spent
and gives not only love, but lets you find a friend -
heaven or hell, you will not fear that call
because you've been the luckiest man of all.

Rudy Klotz



Judge criticizes system for shuffling prisoners

OTTAWA (CP) - The correctional system can't shunt sex offenders around like "cordwood," the Federal Court of Canada says in ordering the system to transfer Donald Alexander Hay back to a prison farm.

Hay, serving a life sentence for kidnapping and having sexual intercourse with a girl, went to court last year after being transferred from the low-security Saskatchewan Farm Institution to maximum security in the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Prince Albert.

Prison officials described Hay as a model prisoner when transferred to the farm last year. Liquor was considered a cause of his criminal offences, but he had joined Alcoholics Anonymous and appeared ready for temporary leaves in Saskatoon.

But last June he and four other prisoners were told they were all being sent back to maximum - not because of bad behavior but because of an unexplained policy change apparently aimed at prisoners convicted of sex offences.

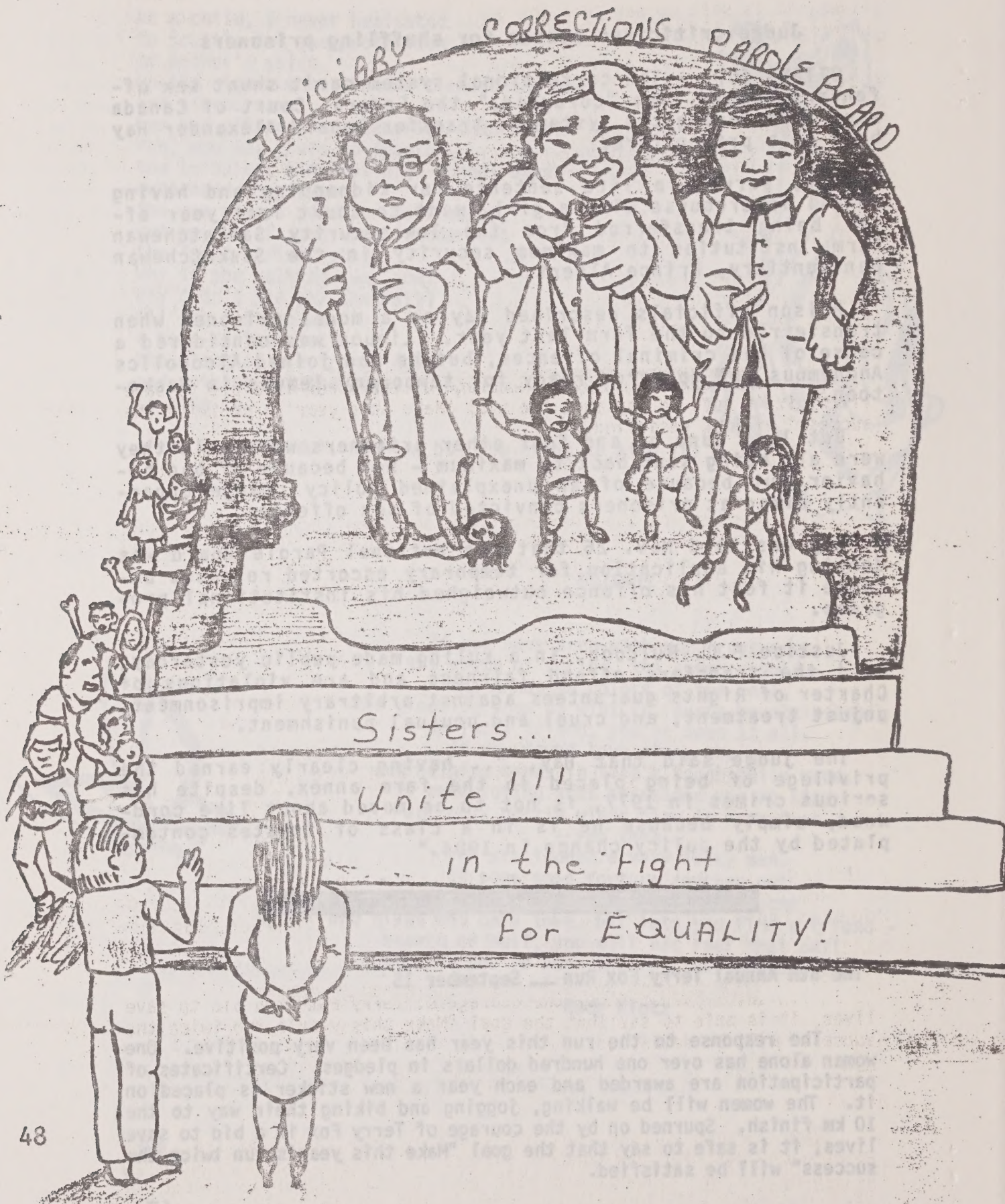
Hay was told Nov. 26 that the National Parole Board was denying his application for temporary escorted releases because it felt his offence outweighed his institutional progress.

Justice F.C. Muldoon, in a ruling made public yesterday, said the transfers offend fairness and are violations of Charter of Rights guarantees against arbitrary imprisonment, unjust treatment, and cruel and unusual punishment.

The judge said that Hay, "... having clearly earned the privilege of being placed in the farm annex, despite his serious crimes in 1977, is not to be moved about like cordwood, simply because he is in a class of inmates contemplated by the policy change in 1984."

The 5th Annual Terry Fox Run — September 15

The response to the run this year has been very positive. One woman alone has over one hundred dollars in pledges. Certificates of participation are awarded and each year a new sticker is placed on it. The women will be walking, jogging and biking their way to the 10 km finish. Spurred on by the courage of Terry Fox in a bid to save lives, it is safe to say that the goal "Make this year's run twice the success" will be satisfied.



Overcrowded system

Re Jails Are Jammed, Penal Expert says (Feb. 23):

Jail overcrowding spills over into the entire correctional system. Probation and parole officers now supervise as many as 150 adult offenders at one time. Case loads have more than doubled over the past decade, despite the fact that even more serious cases are funnelled into the probation system as a result of overcrowding in the jails.

Let us not forget that only 15 per cent of the people dealt with in our correctional system are in jail. Overcrowding in jails is only the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

A.J. Ayres
President
Ontario Public Service
Employed Union
Toronto

(From the Globe & Mail, March 15/85)

Perhaps Geoffrey Fellows would now follow up the insight in his article *Insidious And Costly: Escaping Into Prison* (Feb. 25) by describing how many prisoners who are eligible for parole continue to be incarcerated even when they have stable family relationships waiting to help them on their release. The National Parole Board - for reasons known only to itself, as it is accountable to no one - details indefinitely many who are ready, willing and able to re-establish themselves in the community, at no peril to anyone.

This is another side to prison overcrowding.

Claire Culhane
Prisoners' Right Group
Vancouver

"BRIDGE HOUSE"

Bridge House is a concept that has been set up to alleviate some of the financial burden and the loneliness faced by families who are visiting the area institutions. This house is located at 26 Rideau Street in Kingston, Ontario and sponsored by the Elizabeth Fry Society.

There are a few rules governing your stay at the house however they must be adhered to during your stay. Reservations are required with a maximum three day stay. Twenty-four hours notice of cancellation would be appreciated.

Babysitting services are available during regular visiting hours; however your child is your responsibility during your stay.

Bridge House is a non-profit charitable organization. Your donation towards the cost of your stay would be greatly appreciated.

For further information, please contact:

Bridge House (Kingston) Inc.
26 Rideau Street
Kingston, Ontario
K7K 2Z6
(613) 549-6303

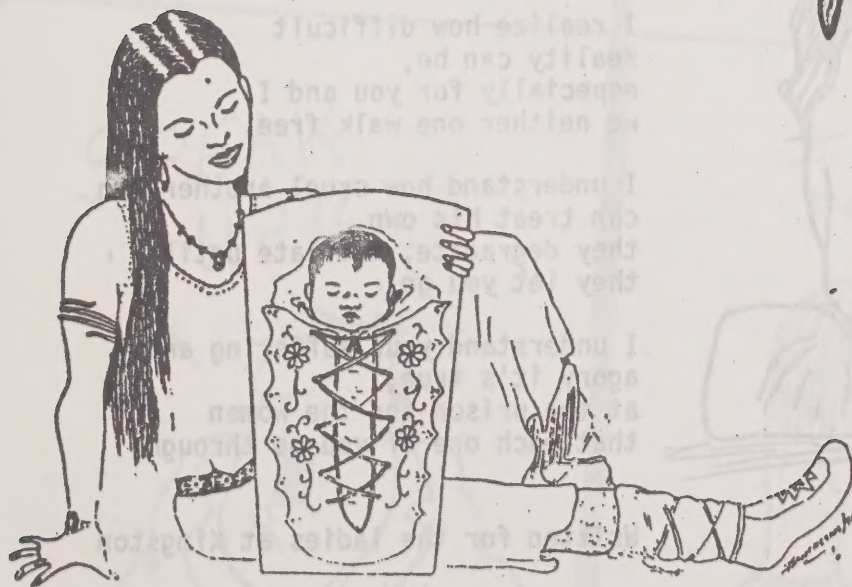
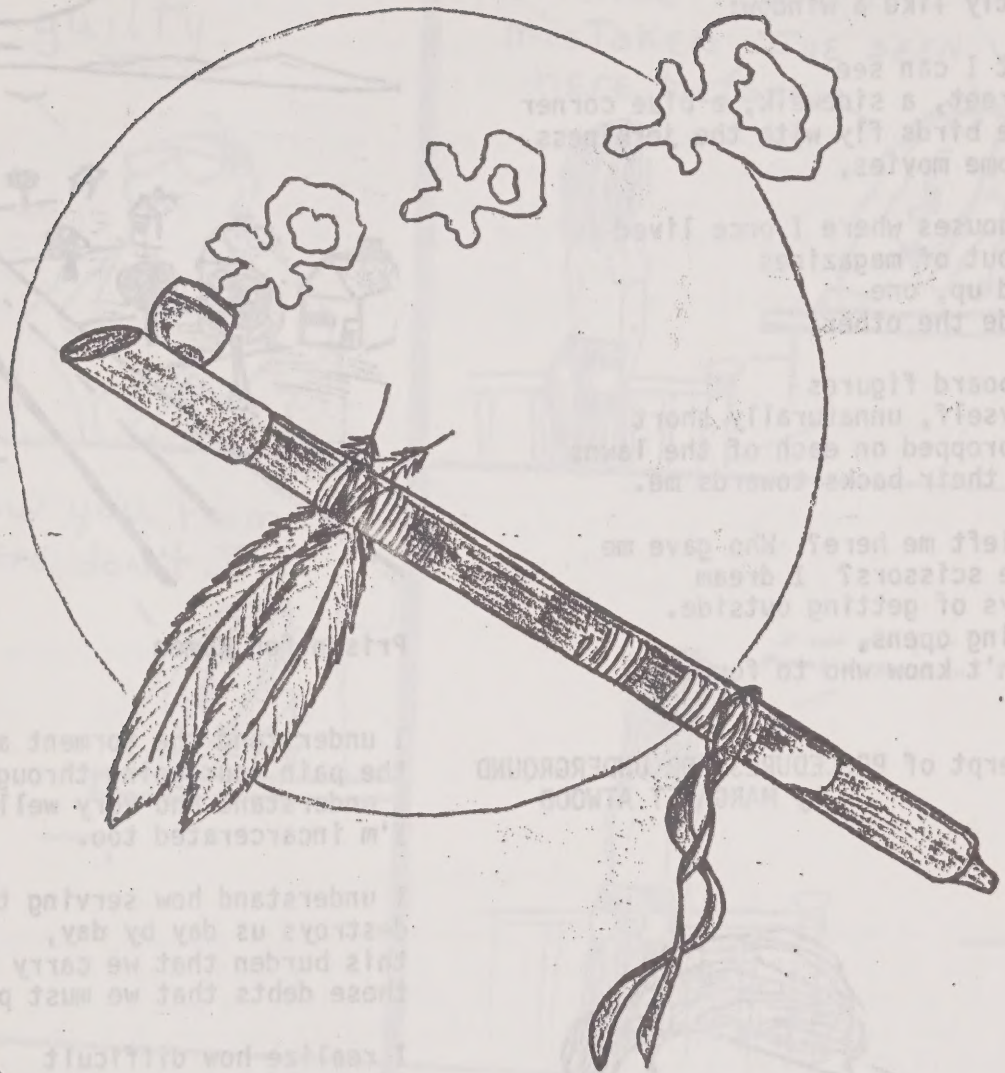
* * * * *

KEEPING YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE OUTSIDE !!

Become involved with Bridge House:

- * Tell your family and friends what Bridge House has to offer them. (A warm and supportive home away from home that is cheap!) We offer babysitting services, kitchen facilities and we also provide meals for children when food is available.
- * You can make a donation and become a member of Bridge House at the same time. Our membership is only \$5.00 a year. This entitles you to voting privileges at our annual general meeting. As a member you will also receive our newsletter.
- * Volunteer your time while out on day passes. (See your C.O. about details)
- * Organize fund raising drives inside.
- * Purchase one of our Bridge House T-shirt and buttons.

Please feel free to contact Bridge House for further information.



Bill C-31
 Native Women have
 regained their
 Indian Status
 lost through
 marriage or the
 marriage of their
 parents.

FRAME

I made this window;
it stands in the middle of my floor.
Around the edges it looks
exactly like a window;

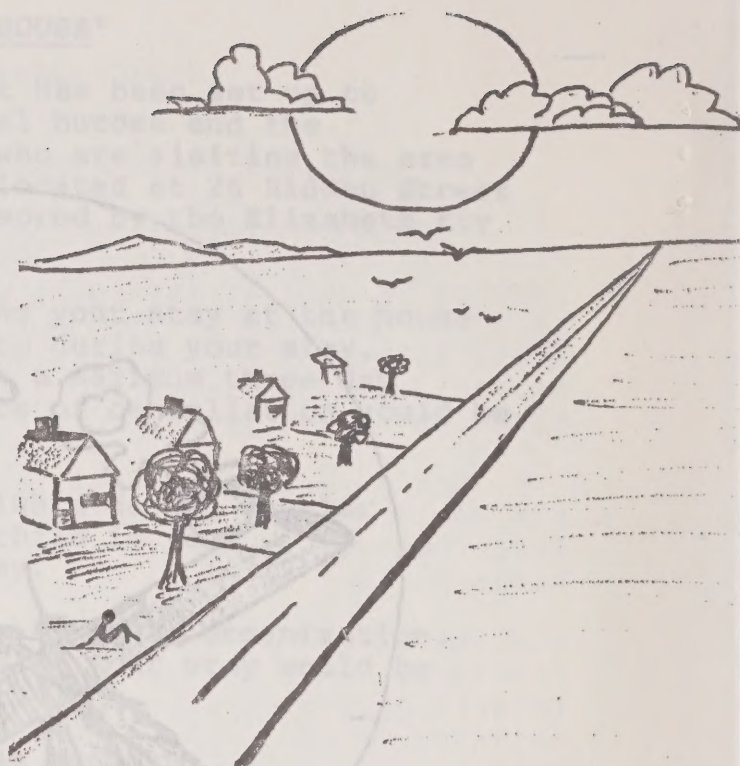
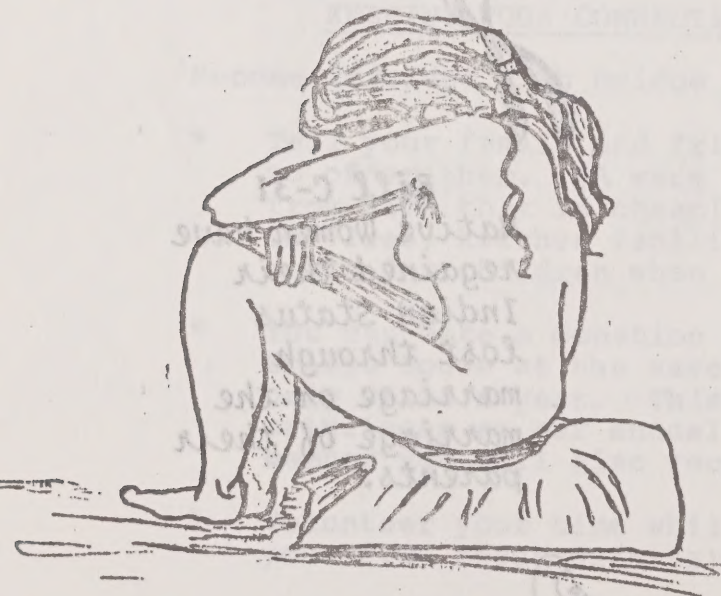
on it I can see
a street, a sidewalk, a blue corner
where birds fly with the jerkiness
of home movies,

the houses where I once lived
cut out of magazines
lined up, one
beside the other;

cardboard figures
of myself, unnaturally short
are propped on each of the lawns
with their backs towards me.

Who left me here? Who gave me
these scissors? I dream
always of getting outside.
Nothing opens,
I don't know who to forgive.

(Excerpt of PROCEDURES FOR UNDERGROUND
by MARGARET ATWOOD)



Prison for Women

I understand the torment and
the pain your going through,
I understand and very well
I'm incarcerated too.

I understand how serving time
destroys us day by day,
this burden that we carry for
these debts that we must pay.

I realize how difficult
reality can be,
especially for you and I
we neither one walk free.

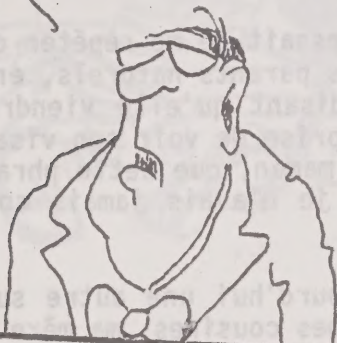
I understand how cruel another man
can treat his own,
they degradate, humilate until
they let you go.

I understand your suffering and
agony it's true,
at the prison for the women
that each one of you go through.

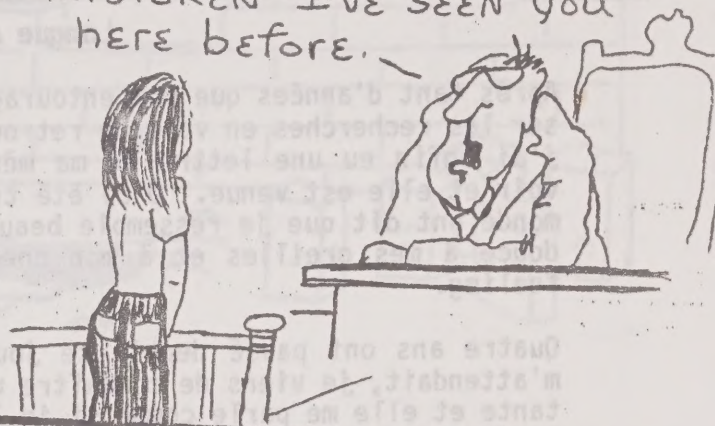
Written for the ladies at Kingston

Harold Gaucher

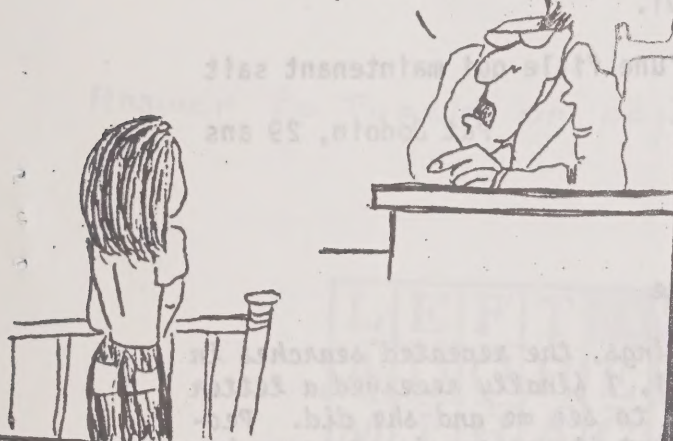
The Jury has found
you guilty.



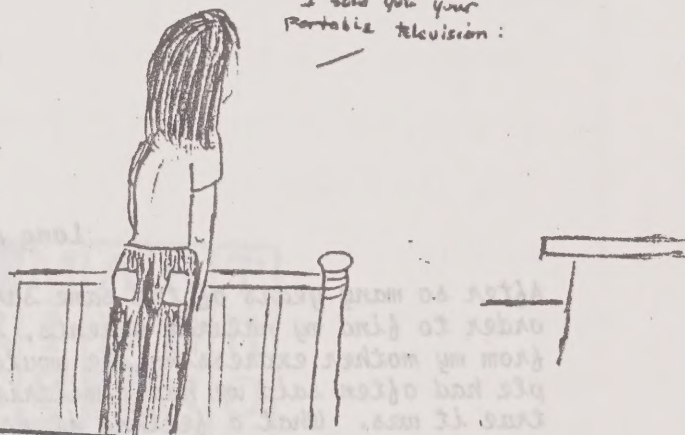
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY
is a VERY, VERY serious
OFFENCE... AND if I'm NOT
mistaken I've SEEN YOU
here before.



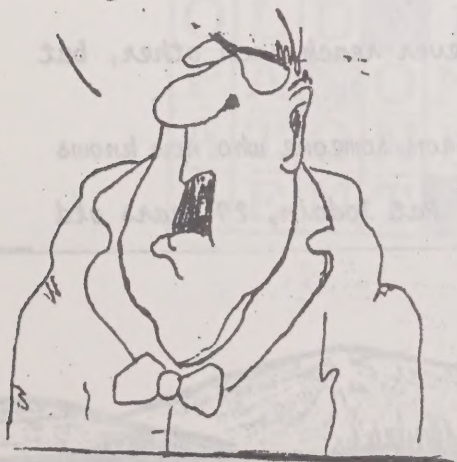
I KNOW you from
SOMEWHERE, don't I?



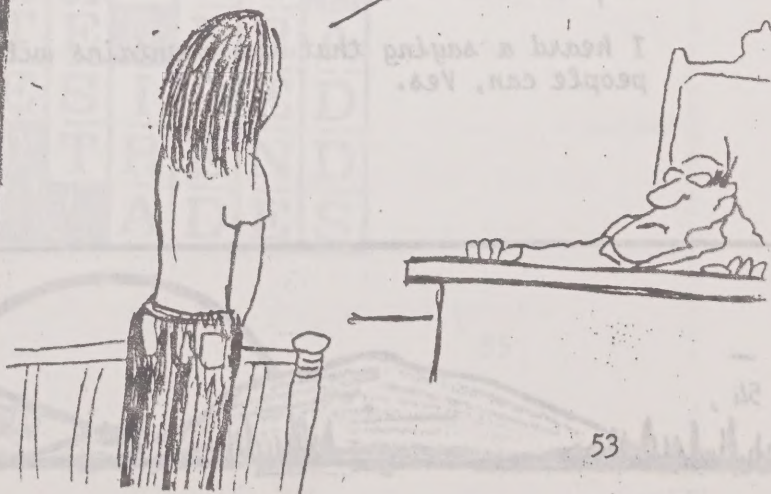
I sold you your
Portable television:

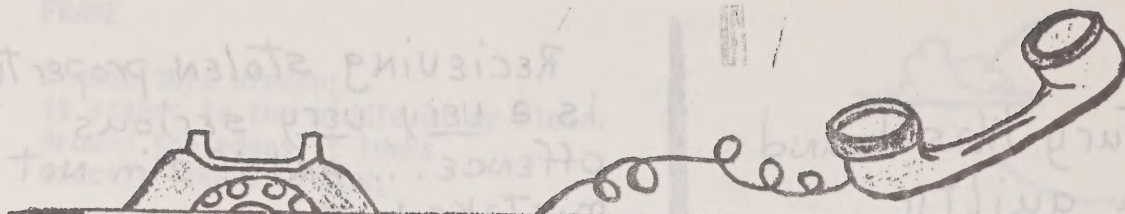


SPEAK
UP!!



I sold you your
portable T.V.





Longue Absence

Après tant d'années que mon entourage ne cessait de me répéter de cesser les recherches en voie de retrouver mes parents naturels, en 1981, j'ai enfin eu une lettre de ma mère me disant qu'elle viendrait me voir et elle est venue. J'ai été très surprise de voir son visage, le monde ont dit que je ressemble beaucoup à maman, que cette phrase est douce à mes oreilles et à mon cœur car je n'avais jamais connu ce feeling.

Quatre ans ont passé depuis ce jour, aujourd'hui une autre surprise m'attendait, je viens de connaître une de mes cousines, ma mère est sa tante et elle me parle comme si je l'aurais toujours connu, c'est tellement le fun. C'est très dur de définir ce que je ressens mais chose est sûre c'est que je suis très émue. C'est donc pour finir cette lettre que je vous écris que c'est donc vrai que deux montagnes ne se rencontrent pas, mais deux personnes, Oui.

D'une fille qui maintenant sait

Pat Jodoin, 29 ans

Long Absence

After so many years of the same surroundings, the repeated searches in order to find my natural parents, in 1981, I finally received a letter from my mother expressing she would come to see me and she did. People had often said we had similarities, but it was so nice to see, how true it was. What a feeling it is; a feeling I never encountered ... a great feeling!

Four years have passed by since that day; today another surprise awaited me, I have found another relative, a cousin, my mother is her aunt and she makes me feel as if I had known her all my life, what a feeling. It's difficult at times to define exactly what I feel but it is certain I am very touched.

I heard a saying that two mountains will never reach each other, but people can, Yes.

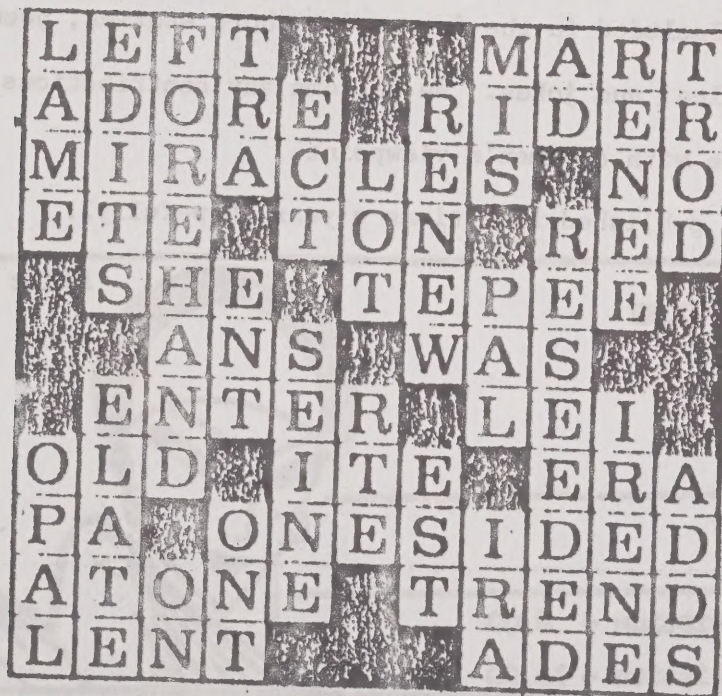
From someone who now knows

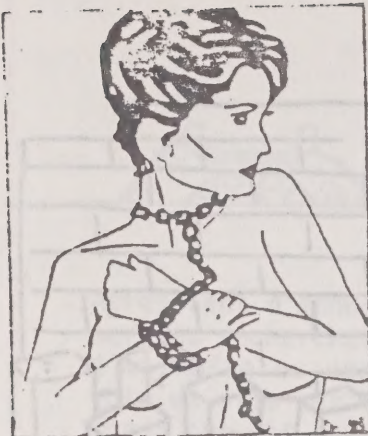
Pat Jodoin, 29 years old





Answer to Puzzle on page 29





tightwire

Dear Friend:

In these times of restraint it appears that the worthiest of causes are being cast out like old newspapers. The Tightwire has been in publication for twelve years. Currently under new management, we are seeking financial backing through donations and subscriptions.

The Tightwire serves many functions. Primarily, it offers a platform for artistic expression to the incarcerated women in Canada's only female federal penitentiary. It also informs the readers of current proposals in law reformation. Included in the format are short stories, poems, artwork, quotes, puzzles, and jokes. We welcome any contributions in these areas especially those with a women's viewpoint.

The Tightwire is published four times a year (hopefully).

TIGHTWIRE PUBLICATIONS

BOX 515

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

K7L 4W7

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

one year subscription - 8.00

two year subscription - 16.00

DATE: _____



Signature _____

prison for women; box 515; kingston, ontario; canada k7l 4w7

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